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Middle East & North Africa

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MATERIALS RELATED TO ALGIERS SUMMIT CONFERENCE

Bouteflika Press Conference

LD051834Y Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 5 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--After the closure of the second summit meeting of the countries of the Arab steadfastness front, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and minister of foreign affairs, held a press conference at Al-Awarasi Hotel in Algiers last night. Mr Bouteflika, who is spokesman for the summit conference, made a preliminary statement in which he retracted the various stages of the Arab movement before mentioning President as-Sadat's visit to Israel.

Here is the full text of this statement:

The process of rebirth of the Arab world, begun immediately after World War II, found itself suddenly and profoundly altered for the worse by the creation of a State of Israel on Palestinian territory. This Zionist entity, an open wound which has been kept as such for 30 years in the heart of the Arab world, assumed two functions to protect imperialist interests in an area vital to the prosperity of the whole of the West and to neutralize the immense upsurge of liberation which was inspiring the Arab peoples.

The Arab movement did not, however, case to affirm itself during this period: in the Machrek by the Egyptian and Iraqui revolutions, the nationalization of the Suez Canal, the liberation war in Aden and the emancipation of all gulf states; in the Maghreb by the liberation movements of Morocco and Tunisia and above all by the Algerian revolution and its double impact, Arab and African.

These were stages which illustrated the authenticity and vigor of the Arab liberation movement, were impulses for a historic march toward total independence, whose prospects were brightened by the immense economic and financial weight represented by the wealth held by the Arab countries.

The question which was of immediate importance has been whether the trump cards held by the Arabs would help the attainment of their legitimate objectives, in particular as far as the Palestinian cause is concerned. The Arab nation has been living in the conviction that the solidarity of its peoples, having made the PLO the sole representative and spokesman of the Palestinian people, having obtained recognition of its representative status by the international community, would at last impose the only solution which conforms with right and honor.

The October 1973 war, on the other hand, placed before the eyes of the world, and in particular those of the Zionist enemy, whose convinction of its invincibility was badly shaken, the image of an Arab fighter who was at one and the same time courageous, inventive and highly competent. The Ramadan war at the same time restored a deep sense of joint identity and solidarity to the Arab peoples. The decisions which followed in the economic field, with the oil embargo, demonstrated the power of the Arabs and the strong capacity for action this accorded them. They even achieved a historic reversal of the relations between the Third World and the rich countries and allowed them to set forth in the correct terms the problems connected with international cooperation.

The Arab world thus found at its disposal wide possibilities for action for the attainment of its peoples' ambitions, in particular for restoring the rights of the Palestinian people. This was the very moment imperialism chose to counteract this positive evolution by accentuating the internal contradictions of the Arab world and by provoking an adverse situation in Lebanon, which is a country that is in all respects typical of these contradictions. It was there in fact that all kinds of manipulations were set in motion for the organization of a series of breaking points which were to serve as start for the sabotaging of Arab solidarity and the "Arabization" of the Middle East conflict.

In this context As-Sadat's visit to Israel appears as yet another episode in a conspiracy aimed at paralyzing the Arab world, diverting its vital strength from the priority tasks of political and economic liberation and forcing it into an imperialist straight-jacket within the framework of a strategy aimed against the whole of the Third World and in particular the Middle East and Africa.

After the many fruitful contacts and meetings of recent weeks this summit conference has made its mark as a new and important date in the process of strengthening the Arab ranks at the present crucial times, which are marked by imperialism's divisive machinations and by the enemy's arrogance.

So, then, in light of the events which had taken place either within the Arab world or outside it, the Algiers summit, after that of Tripoli, has been one of clarity, just as there is clarity regarding the imperialist and Zionist intentions with respect to the two main requirements which the whole of the Arab nation has made its own, namely, the liberation of all occupied territories and the attainment of the Palestinian people's national rights, Abdelaziz Bouteflika concluded.

To a question concerning "violent attacks" aimed against France, Mr Bouteflika said:

"The relations of various countries of the front and of all Arab countries with France are important. This results from the fact that since Algeria's decolonization the Arab world has wanted to turn a page of history by forgetting for a moment that 1.5 million of its sons were killed during the Algerian war. Thus, the whole Arab nation has gradually moved toward a mutually beneficial cooperation.

"Nevertheless the Arab world, just as the other parts of the Third World and in particular Africa, is passing through a delicate stage. It is regrettable that France is not playing the positive role which we might expect of it. However, as a Mediterranean country which has historical relations with many Arab nations and in particular those of the Maghreb, France has been in a better position than anybody to help solve problems. It would be in its interests and in the interest of the Maghreb peoples, and thus of all Arab peoples.

"Unfortunately this is not the policy we are witnessing now. On behalf of Ageria and on behalf of the front countries, I regret this.

"French intervention in the Arab world as well as in Africa has an imperialist character, whatever justifications are brought forward. It is time that France remembered that it has responsibilities within the Security Council and also historical responsibilities toward the peoples of our region because, even if we had been forgetful, the painful and tragic events of the Algerian war would not be far from our thoughts and our conscience.

"I want to tell you that we are entirely ready for cooperation with the French Government as soon as imperialist instincts are got rid of and as soon as a will for dialog is manifested. We would be especially happy to cooperate in turning a new page which would consist of cooperation and friendship with the French people."

To a question whether there would be a change in Syria's and Libya's attitude, countries which have good relations with France, Mr Bouteflika said: "It is perfectly clear that there are important interests between Algeria, Libya and Syria...Libya being a Maghreb country, has the right to be concerned about France's intervention in the Maghreb region and as an Arab country Libya has the right and the duty, just as Syria, to be concerned about French intervention in an Arab region. As an African country, Libya has the right and the duty, just as Algeria, to be concerned about French military intervention in Africa."

As far as the next summit meeting of the front countries is concerned, Mr Bouteflika said that summit meetings are held in all capital cities of the member countries in turn. The next summit will therefore be held in one of the capitals of a member country in the Machrek.

In connection with America's position regarding French intervention in the Maghreb and the subject of American arms sales to Morocco, the Algerian minister of foreign affairs replied: "Algeria has important trade relations and will soon have economic relations with the United States. President Carter's accession to power has raised immense hopes within humanity as a whole.... Unfortunately we have not got the feeling that there is an absolutely clear policy, at any rate it appears unchanged and unchangeable, at least concerning the necessity of finding a lasting solution to the question of the Middle East and of the Palestinian people."

"We note that there is an imperialistic approach in this policy. We are nonalined countries; we are attached to our national independence above everything else....

"In no way do we want to find ourselves harnessed to the chariot of American imperialism one day. As far as arms sales are concerned, this is a problem which causes concern, not because there is a transaction between the United States and Morocco but because there is a situation of crisis and of conflict, of war and tension in the region. In the 1960 articles it is stated that American arms cannot be used by Morocco beyond its borders at that time. We want this article to be observed with a view to appeasement in the region and the simultaneous safeguarding of Algerian interests in the United States and those of the United States in Algeria and the Maghreb region."

To a question regarding the widening of the Arab steadfastness front, Mr Bouteflika stressed that "the front is not an axis directed against one or another Arab country. It is an all-Arab front which appeals to all countries which did not support President as-Sadat's initiative of capitulation....

"Iraq seems to have a doctrinaire position which is harder than that of the front countries.... There is not a shade of difference between Iraq's position and that of Algeria, the Jamahiriyah, Yemen, or even the PLO.

"There are, however, bilateral problems between Syria and Iraq. We will make every effort to solve them at every level of responsibliity. The doors remain therefore wide open for Iraq's reintegration."

Replying to a question regarding Senegalese President Senghor's attitude toward the latest developments of the situation in the Western Sahara, Mr Bouteflika said that President Senghor has always had a special relationship with Algeria. "We can understand that there are political differences between Algeria and Senegal at the present stage and we regret them." But, the minister added, "President Senghor is a party to a kind of strategy which is not directed at peoples' self-determination....A few weeks after the Libreville conference we are witnessing the reactivation of the Cape Vert base in Senegal...to serve against the small Saharan people."

To a question on Iran's actions in the Arab world at present, Mr Bouteflika replied: "We are faced with differences in the political field. In connection with oil prices, the whole world knows Iran's traditional position on the problems of indexing, and now suddenly the fixing of oil prices is used as a political negotiating weapon for a single country. At the same time, Iran, which has not always been concerned with the Palestinian question, now suddenly believes that maybe the Palestinian people do not quite have the right to form a state..."

"At the same time, Iran is concerned regarding the Horn of Africa as it wants to engage itself militarily for the benefit of one side and to the detriment of the other. The office of the OAU secretary general has expressed the position of the various member states in its reaction to this situation.

"Therefore, if friendly relations with Iran remain unaffected, there are some political differences, and I suppose that by dialog we will gradually manage to smooth them out."

'Arafat Meets With Boumediene

JN061545Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 6 Feb 78 JN

[Text] A meeting was held in the Algerian capital yesterday between the Palestinian delegation led by Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and Algerian President Houari Boumediene. The radio correspondent has learned that during the meeting, which lasted 2 and 1/2 hours, talks were held on the results achieved by the conference of steadfastness and confrontation as well as on the practical steps to be taken in the face of the coming stage and the developments currently taking place in the region on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels.

Talks were also held on the resolution pertaining to fraternal Iraq and its participation in and contribution to the front of steadfastness and confrontation. This was followed by a discussion of the entire situation in the Arab region and the dangers of what is taking place there. The meeting was dominated by an atmosphere of fraternity and solidarity of struggle.

'Arafat Departure Statement

LD061258Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Text] This morning both Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Excecutive Committee, left Algiers after taking part in the work of the second conference of steadfastness held in Algiers. They were seen off at the Ad-Dar al-Bayda' airport by brother Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and chairman of the Council of the Revolution, and by members of the Revolution Council and government.

In the VIP lounge at the airport Yasir 'Arafat made a press statement to the radio reporter and here is the statement: [begin recording]

[Reporter] Mr Yasir 'Arafat, we would like to hear the voice of the Palestinian revolution and its view on the summit conference of steadfastness held in Algiers.

['Arafat] First of all, it is not only the voice of the Palestinian revolution but is is the voice of the Palestinian revolution which is supported by the summit of confrontation, opposition and challenge of our Arab nation. [Words indistinct] now that brother President Boumediene and the brother Chairman al-Qadhdhafi gave me this opportunity to say these words, I have the honor to say to my brothers in the Arab nation and to my brothers the Algerian people that the Algiers talks in the last few days were an important step in increasing, strengthening and developing the forces of confrontation, opposition and challenge of our Arab nation.

It has been proven once again that the front which was born in Tripoli is capable of confronting all the conspiracies which are plotted against the Arab nation and the Arab nation can never surrender or accept what colonialism, world Zionism and world imperialism, headed by the United States, are asking. The Arab nation will prove its existence over all the obstacles and conspiracies it faces. The Palestinian revolution will continue its struggle and fighting until we recover all our liberated soil, and then, God willing, together we will pray in liberated Jerusalem, the Jerusalem which we will enter as conquerors like Salah ad-Din. [end recording]

BAGHDAD PUBLISHES STEADFASTNESS FRONT DRAFT CHARTER

JN0311000Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 3 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 February--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH today publishes the draft charter of the front of steadfastness and liberation. The draft is made up of two parts:

1. The draft charter of the front of steadfastness and liberation.

2. The "secret" draft charter of the official front.

President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr sent messages to the leaders who participated in the Tripoli conference inviting them to hold a summit conference in Baghdad between 15 and 20 January. President al-Bakr attached to the invitation the draft charter of the front, which Iraq named "the front of steadfastness and liberation.

The following is the text of the draft charter of the front of steadfastness and liberation, including both overt and covert parts:

I. The draft charter of the front of steadfastness and liberation.

Because of our trust in God, because of our sense of sacred pan-Arab responsibility under these historic and difficult circumstances, in order to express the hopes and legitimate ambitions of the Arab masses, because of our allegiance to the blood of the Arab martyrs and the great sacrifices that have been made by the nation throughout scores of years of valiant struggle for the sake of freedom, unity and dignity and to regain legitimate rights in Palestine, because the unity of the progressive struggling Arab forces is one of the objectives of the strugglers of the Arab nation, and as the Arab masses urge, is also one of the basic conditions to provide the requisites of steadfastness vis-a-vis the Zionist and imperialist schemes and plots, as well as a central necessity to achieve the nation's goals of liberation, and because the Arab nation's goals of liberation, and because the Arab nation's experiments during the various stages of its struggle emphasize this unity--we who met in Baghdad from [date left blank] declare the following with full confidence and faith:

1. The front of steadfastness and liberation is made up of Iraq, Syria, Algeria, Libya, the PDRY and the PLO.

2. The front is aimed at unifying all efforts and the military, economic and political resources of the front's members, as well as at unifying all the resources of the Arab nation and its struggling masses for the sake of continuing the struggle with strong and firm determination, no matter how long this takes and regardless of the sacrifices, in order to liberate all the occupied Arab territories and to regain the rights of the Palestinian people in liberating their usurped land and determining their future.

3. The sides agreed on this charter deeply believe in the need to unify all Arab resources and efforts to achieve these sublime objectives on the sound and clear pan-Arab bases defined by the charter. Therefore, the sides welcome any efforts by any Arab state to add to the efforts of the sides participating in this front, in accordance with the principles of this charter. They urge all the Arab states to exert such efforts and to participate in the sacred duties of the front.

4. The sides which have agreed on this charter express their extreme appreciation for the role being played by world public opinion, the international bodies--the foremost of which is the United Nations--the nonalined countries, the friendly countries and all countries which are adopting a just and even-handed position toward the Arab right. These countries and parties are trying to boost their relations with the front's members and to cooperate with them, in a spirit of great responsibility, in order to take measures to support the legitimate struggle of the Arab nation to liberate its occupied territories and to regain the rights of the Palestinian people.

Because of their responsibility for and their faith in the principles of justice and right, which the world's nations have struggled to achieve in international relations, the sides collectively affirm that under no circumstances will they accept or approve resolutions, draft resolutions or proposals that have been adopted or will be adopted by any international body or a group of countries that harm the essence of Arab sovereignty on its land, its free will to set up relations with others or the essence of the historical rights of the Palestinian people.

5. The sides which agreed on this charter consider they have solidarity and cohesion regarding all the responsibilities, commitments and actions stemming from this front, in accordance with the objectives of this charter.

6. The front of steadfastness and liberation is neither a bloc, nor an axis, nor a pact. Its principle is to serve the entire Arab nation. Its objective is to liberate the occupied Arab territories and to regain the rights of the Palestinian people in liberating their usurped land and determining their future. The front also aims at consolidating free and responsible Arab participation in the international arena and at strengthening justice, stability and prosperity in the areas neighboring the countries participating in this front and in the entire world. Therefore, the sides assert the following:

A. Their meeting within the context of this front shall not affect their normal participation in the Arab League and in all the institutions and bodies stemming from it. Their meeting in the front shall not affect their participation in all the joint Arab activities, at any level. This naturally shall also be applied to their participation in international activities and bodies.

B. The front is open to all Arab countries which declare their acceptance of its charter and shoulder the commitments being shouldered by the participating sides.

C. The front's sides confirm that joining the front will not affect their bilateral relations with the other Arab or foreign countries. It also will not affect the contracts, agreements and treaties the sides have ratified with these countries. They also assert their strong keenness to build relations of friendship and cooperation with all the countries of the world on the basis of the principles of complete sovereignty, non-intervention in the domestic affairs and respect for the principles of right, justice and peace in the world.

D. The sides affirm that it stands to reason that the nature of relations between these sides and the other Arab and foreign countries must be defined in light of these countries' position toward the issue of the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

7. The front shall have a supreme political command consisting of the leaders of the sides participating in the front and including the PLO chairman, or of their designated representatives. This command shall be the highest authority in the front and its responsibility is to adopt the principal decisions in all domains. This command shall adopt resolutions with the agreement of all its sides.

The command has the authority to form subcommands and specialized bodies and committees to follow up the implementation of its resolutions and to perform any duty entrusted to them by the supreme political command. The supreme political command shall hold its meetings periodically in the capitals of the countries of the front, or whenever there is any need to do so.

8. It shall be permissible to accept other Arab countries wishing to join the front, provided these countries completely and unconditionally accept this charter and the commitments being shouldered by the sides, and provided the approval of the founders is unanimous.

Baghdad [blanks left for date and signatures]

II. The "Secret" Draft Charter of the Official Front:

First--Political Affairs:

1. The front's sides agree that the legal and actual implication of Paragraph 4 of the overt charter is not to accept Resolution 242, adopted by the Security Council on 22 November 1967, and Resolution 338, adopted by the Security Council on 22 October 1973. They also agree not to hold negotiations or make peace [as-sulh] with the Zionist enemy or to recognize it.

2. What has been agreed upon in the overt charter, as well as in this charter, is considered the minimum for the political and principled attitudes which the front's sides are committed to in their information and political activities, be it on the regional level or on the pan-Arab and international levels. The front's sides must express, through their political means and in their information media, stronger and radical attitudes toward the struggle with imperialism, Zionism and their allies, as well as toward the liberation of all the Palestinian soil and the setting up of a democratic state in Palestine.

3. The PLO must get away from any concession of the historical rights of the Palestinian people in their land. The PLO's continued, basic and declared slogan in all its information and political activities must be armed and protracted struggle for the sake of establishing the democratic state in Palestine. Any flexibility displayed by certain official sides within the framework of the charter of the front, and in accordance with action approved by the supreme political command, must not be applied to the PLO, which must adhere to this principled course firmly and continue its armed struggle against the enemy with all the available means.

4. The sides agree on the need to pursue a firm course on the political, economic and information levels against the Arab countries which are playing the role of implementing the schemes of the imperialist-Zionist plans and the capitulatory policies, as well as against the countries which have suspicious roles with regard to the Arab-Zionist struggle.

5. The above shall be applied to foreign countries, particularly the United States, which is the principle mainstay of the Zionist enemy and which is playing the principal imperialist role in the area with the aim of dominating it politically, military and economically, striking against the Arab revolution and liquidating its gain of progress and liberation, liquidating the Palestinian cause and entrenching the Zionist entity as a usurping force and a spearhead for imperialist influence and infiltration in the area. This also includes other foreign countries which play suspicious roles toward the Palestinian cause.

6. The supreme political command shall define the procedures that should be taken against these countries.

7. Bilateral contacts between any side of the front and the other Arab and foreign countries regarding the issue of liberating the occupied Arab territories and regarding the Palestinian cause shall be planned and approved by the supreme political command.

Second--The Military Commitments:

A. The sides participating in the front shall form a supreme military command to be under the supreme political command. The military command shall be made up of the defense ministers and chiefs of staff of the sides participating in the front.

B. The sides participating in the front shall participate in building the northern front by means of dispatching combatant troops as follows: [five blank spaces]

This ratio of participation shall be the minimum, and the political command has the right to decide to increase these numbers.

C. The decisions of the military command must be obeyed by all the combatant troops stationed on the frontline with the enemy.

D. The supreme military command shall have a commander in chief to be appointed by the supreme political command.

E. The jurisdictions of the supreme military command, the commander in chief and the chiefs of staff of the military command shall be defined by a decision of the supreme political command.

F. The decision to wage war or any cease-fire decision shall be made in agreement with the sides participating in the front.

Third--The Economic and Financial Commitments:

A. A monetary fund shall be formed and shall be designated the front's fund. The minimum capital of this fund shall be [blank space left] million dollars. The sides participating in the front shall contribute to this fund in accordance with ratios determined by the financial capabilities of each country and the extent of its participation in the military commitments in the northern military front: [five blank spaces]

B. This fund shall finance the military expenditures resulting from the formation of the northern military front. These military expenditures will usually occur in case of military clashes or war with the enemy and will cover compensation for strategic economic and military losses which might befall any side of the front. This fund shall be in addition to the current military and ordinary budgets which are separately approved by the front's sides in accordance with their ordinary plans and commitments.

C. The expenses pertaining to the PLO, the Palestinian resistance factions and its armed forces, the martyrs and other Palestinian civil affairs, both inside and outside the occupied territories, shall be part of this fund in accordance with procedures to be defined by the supreme political command. The PLO as well as any Palestinian side participating in the front are prohibited from receiving any military or financial aid, or any other aid, from any Arab or foreign country except by decision of the supreme political command. Should any side violate this condition, it will be denied any assistance from this fund and be expelled from the front. The supreme political committee shall define the methods and draw up the necessary plans for the participation of the Arab masses in providing the financial and struggle requirements for supporting the front and the PLO.

Fourth--The Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement:

A. The front shall strengthen the resources of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement militarily and economically to enable them to standfast against the Zionist-isolationist schemes and aggression.

B. The political command shall form a special command from designated leading members to formulate the policy, activity and movement in Lebanon. This command shall be made up of the sides participating in the front and shall include representatives of the nationalist movement in Lebanon. This command shall be subordinate to the supreme political command.

Fifth:

The front's sides shall act with all pan-Arab responsibility to centralize all their efforts and provide all their economic, military and political resources for the sake of the central issue for which this front has been formed. The front's sides are determined to set aside all peripheral issues that would weaken this concentration or reduce these resources.

Sixth:

The sides participating in the front, particularly the oil-exporting countries of Iraq, Algeria and Libya, shall agree on a unified policy concerning oil and energy affairs and the related competent international and Arab bodies. These countries shall also define relevant practical procedures in light of the charter's basic concepts and the front's requirements.

Seventh--The Charter's Amendment, the Front's Membership and the Resolutions of the Supreme Political Command:

A. Any amendment of the front's overt charter or of the front's secret charter will only take place with the agreement of all sides participating in the front.

B. The supreme political command shall have the jurisdiction of freezing or dropping the membership of any member of the front if he fails to fulfill his commitments as stipulated in the two charters.

C. The supreme political command's resolutions shall be adopted with the agreement of all sides and shall be registered in official minutes. All sides shall keep an official copy of the minutes.

Eighth:

The political command shall form a general political secretariat to assume the responsibility of preparing for meetings, following up the implementation of its resolutions and speaking on its behalf. The secretariat shall also assume any other tasks entrusted to it by the supreme political command.

Discussions on Draft Charter

JN051825Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 February--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH today discloses part of the discussions which took place on the Iraqi draft charter of the front of steadfastness and liberation [at-tahrr].

The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said that the Iraqi envoys who went to Algiers, Tripoli and Aden were informed that these countries welcomed the Iraqi initiative regarding both form and substance as well as the venue for convening the conference. So far we have not heard anything from them to the contrary.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, however, posed an objection during his meeting with Revolution Command Council [RCC] Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn, in the presence of Faruq Qaddumi, on the third article of the secret part of the charter, related to the financial and economic commitments. This article provided for securing all the financial needs of the PLO and the Palestinian masses from the front's fund, provided that the PLO refrains from receiving financial military or any other aid from any other Arab or foreign country except by decision of the supreme political command.

As part of its series of articles published under the title "In the Aftermath of As-Sadat's Visit to Occupied Palestine: What Has Happened, and What Is Required at the Current Phase?" the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH points out that Yasir 'Arafat said that he might understand that this initiative might imply some kind of tutelage over the PLO by the countries participating in the front. The paper says that Saddam Husayn told Yasir 'Arafat: When we inserted this provision, we wanted to protect and strengthen the PLO and the Palestinian resistance and movement, and we did not intend to impose tutelage on it. The front's countries must take care of all the PLO financial and military needs, and they are capable of doing so, and the PLO would not need aid from any other side.

Saddam Husayn added: This provision protects the resistance from the negative effects which influence its stands and conditions as a result of the financial aid given by certain sides. Saddam Husayn finally expressed preparedness to review this paragraph in consultation with the PLO and the resistance movement in a manner that would achieve the basic goal.

The paper ATH-THAWRAH further said that the discussions by the leadership of the resistance at a later date centered on two main points in the charter: The first point was the one raised by 'Arafat during his visit to Iraq, and the second point dealt with what some of the resistance leaders had noted to the effect that the draft charter did not mention that the transient [marhhali] aim of the Palestinian revolution is to establish a Palestinian national authority.

The paper said that the resistance delegations were informed, on their arrival in Baghdad, that the revolution in Iraq did not oppose the project of Palestinian national authority and that its only opposition concerned the price to be paid for this authority. If the price for setting up Palestinian national authority is recognition of the Zionist entity, giving up the remaining Palestinian territories and ending the struggle with the Zionist entity, then it is natural that we do not approve such a project.

If what is intended is to establish the Palestinian national authority over any territories of the Palestinian soil to be liberated or to be restored, without the recognition of the Zionist entity, without giving up the remaining of the Palestinian territories or stopping the struggle against the Zionist enemy, then the party and the revolution in Iraq will support this project. We also told the delegations that we are ready to accept a provision which you yourself could include in the open part of the charter determining the transient aim and its conditions.

The organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party further said that the question which required the most attention and which was the most delicate matter in the talks concerned the Syrian side in the charter, if it is possible to use that expression. Various delegations which visited Baghdad conveyed to us the opinions and the many objections which the Syrian regime was said to have raised directly or through its representatives and well-known supporters.

It was said that the Syrian regime could not renounce Resolution 338, although it is ready to give up Resolution 242, because resolution 338 includes a provision on the cease-fire. If the Syrian regime renounces this resolution, it means direct war with the enemy.

We told those who conveyed these arguments to us: Tell the Syrian regime that we are ready to reach agreement on a formula which will mean the rejection of the two resolutions without renouncing the Syrian regime's pledge regarding the cease-fire. However, the question of war, or truce or cease-fire must be left to the command of the front to decide upon, and it must adopt what it sees as suitable and correct in due time. If the Syrian regime is sincere in its desire to relinquish the settlement course, from the point of view of principles and results, we are ready to reach any practical agreement on the subject with it.

The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says: While we put forth these conditions, we are taking into our consideration that we will bear with the Syrian regime all the military, political and economic consequences stemming from these conditions, since the establishment of the front of steadfastness and liberation, as we proposed it, means the formation of a northern military front in which Iraq would participate in an influential manner. It is unreasonable to believe that Iraq would set impossible or irrational terms for the Syrian regime, since Iraq would be a party to them and would be committed to the same terms. The question then is not the imposition of impossible or irrational terms but is whether to continue or not to continue on the settlement line, with all its repercussions on the Arab and international levels. It is one of adopting a constant line of struggle aimed at liberation provided that it is realistic and takes into consideration all the local, Arab and international facts. This is the essential question.

At the time we were discussing this part of the draft charter, other sides were reiterating what the Syrian regime was saying, namely, that they cannot publicly renounce the two Security Council resolutions, even if the problem of the cease-fire is resolved, since the Syrian regime is committed to them internationally and that renouncing them would place it in a very embarassing situation internationally.

This is an example of the tactics the Syrian regime used in a dialog with the nationalist sides. When it is cornered in one place, it moves on to another place, and then to a third, and so on. When we told the Syrian regime that the provision for renouncing the two Security Council resolutions is included in the secret part of the draft charter submitted by Iraq, the Syrian regime said there are no secrets. Regarding this, we said the question here is different. We know that the Syrian regime accepted the two Security Council resolutions and that its acceptance of these two resolutions has led to large-scale international commitments and relations. We oppose this acceptance to start with and cannot under the circumstances approve the creation of a front for steadfastness while the Syrian regime continues to accept these two resolutions, which mean recognition of and negotiation and conciliation with the enemy.

The two Security Council resolutions also mean the approval of secure borders for the enemy. When the Syrian regime insists on the continued acceptance of these two resolutions as a constant line of policy, then this means that the Syrian regime does not want the front of steadfastness and liberation, but wants a political alliance to strengthen it in its differences with As-Sadat, and these differences, in our views, are peripheral differences. Consequently, the Syrian regime would be improving its position and its cards in the settlement. This is something, but what we are calling for is something completely different and even contradictory to it.

What other things were said in the discussions? But why not tell the Syrian regime that we do not object to its continued acceptance of the two Security Council resolutions and then enter into a front with it and put forth new specifications for the front--a front capable of gradually developing the stand of the Syrian regime in the process of the interactions which will result from the front's activities and actions, particularly as the settlement which the Syrian regime is calling for on the information level is too hard to reach.

Regarding this talk we said: We do not deny that the interactions resulting from the front may lead to relatively different configurations in the current situation and that it is logical that the parties wishing to form the front should seek mutual accommodation in their stands and also make reciprocal concessions. However, we should not forget that what is called serious specifications has results that are already known. The serious specifications for those who intend to carry on with the settlement are something, and the serious specifications for those who want to get out of it are something else. On the other hand, there should exist in advance a minimum of guarantees, and obvious guarantees, in case the front is formed. From the October war to the present, there have been two lines of Arab policy: the line of settlement, with all its colors and complications, and the line of rejecting the settlement.

When the front is established, it is necessary to define a course, even in a preliminary or general way--settlement or no settlement--because the nature of action in the front, from the first hours of its establishment, will accordingly be defined. There is a big difference between the nature of action on all political, military and economic levels. Guarantees are, therefore, not an impossible request but a practical and logical condition.

Suppose we set up the front without stipulating for the Syrian regime the rejection of the Resolutions 242 and 338 and then something happened in the Arab or international situation which made the Syrian regime capable of continuing its efforts for a settlement--and we are completely convinced that it seeks to achieve this and it does not deny it--what would happen then? We would be forced to withdraw from the front and criticize the Syrian regime. But it will then ask: Why do you criticize me? I have not erred. The front's charter does not commit me not to accept the settlement, and I do not act against the charter. Thus, the front ends--from the practical point of view. Or it becomes support for the "improved" policy of settlement, and not a front that creates a new Arab situation different from that which preceded As-Sadat's visit. Is it this that is required of the front? For us, no and a thousand no's. Thus, there should be guarantees and the line should be clear between the course which is conducive to settlement and the other one, so that if one party wants to return to the settlement course, its action will be a clear violation of the front's course and the masses will then deal with it.

ATH-THAWRAH added that flexibility is necessary but the limits of this flexibility should not be wiped out so that no clear and tangible line exists to enable the masses to distinguish between patriotic and unpatriotic stands and between the progressive and reactionary stands. Otherwise, things get mixed up and when this happens in a situation like the current Arab situation with its existing balances, this confusion will not at all be in the interest of the patriotic and progressive forces. On the contrary, these forces will be the losers. It is not logical that Iraq--which has followed a firm and principled political line through the past years and has, therefore, been exposed to pressures and sacrifices--should agree to give up this line merely on the basis of assumptions which nobody guarantees.

During these discussions, our viewpoint seemed acceptable by the brothers who discussed it with us, both those in power or in the Palestinian or Arab popular movements. But some of them said: Well, your ideas are accepted in principle. But would your stand not change if the relations between you and the Syrian regime were not as they are now? Would you not then be much more flexible than you are today? Others said: Well, if we assume that the Syrian regime has agreed in principle to your proposals, or agreed to discuss them in a positive way, how could the Syrian regime's president then come to Baghdad, with relations between you what they are now?

This is the question of the relations between us and the Syrian regime. This is what we shall deal with in the next article in the series.

Baghdad Paper Comments on Draft

JN0409065Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 4 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 February--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has declared that those who have gone along too far with the settlement designs and with As-Sadat himself can only find themselves prisoners of their own history. The paper adds: Their stands, which have become clear since the last phase of the ill-fated visit are "in practice capitulatory stands although they appear differently on the surface." The paper was commenting thus on the declared and secret parts of the draft charter of the front of steadfastness and liberation, which the paper published.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The plans these sides have proposed, or in which they are participating, cannot go beyond the plans of capitulation and recognition of the enemy. The paper affirms that the current Arab situation requires genuine, effective, realistic and conscious action, taking into consideration the situation of the sides participating in this action from the political, economic and manpower standpoints. The paper points out the need to adopt the Iraqi plan included in the two documents published in the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH yesterday on the front of steadfastness and liberation. It says the adoption of this plan will place us on a sound course.

The paper adds that the aim of the publication of the Iraqi draft charter of the front of steadfastness and liberation is to place the facts before the Arab masses, since more than one Arab side is trying to twist the facts. The paper says that this will deny the opportunity to all sides which seek to pretend that they are adopting stands other than their actual stands. It also places each side in its real position and shows the true size of each side. The paper affirms that there is a need for frankness on this level, since more than one Arab side is trying to resort to the game of mixing the cards, camouflage and concealing facts.

ARAB BOYCOTT WARNS AGAINST BRITAIN'S DECISIONS

NC0711307 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Damascus, 7 February--The commissioner general of the Arab Boycott of Israel, Muhammad Mahjub, has warned that any decisions issued by Britain against the Arab Boycott of Israel will be detrimental to British-Arab relations and to British economic interests in the Arab countries. Mahjub affirmed that the Arab Boycott will never allow any foreign laws to restrict its work and that it will firmly oppose such interference. This was contained in an exclusive statement by Mahjub to the MENA correspondent in Damascus. The statement was commenting on the British House of Lords' recent approval, in principle, of a bill against the Arab Boycott.

GULF INFORMATION EXPERTS BEGIN MEETINGS IN BAGHDAD

JN041038Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 4 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 February--The meetings of the information experts of the Arab Gulf states began here this morning to prepare the agenda of the third conference of information ministers of the Arab Gulf states which will begin here next Tuesday.

Nadim al-Yasin, director general of public relations at the Information Ministry, made an address welcoming the Arab brothers on behalf of the Iraqi delegation. He said their brothers in Iraq are happy to have them here. Al-Yasin added: The first and second conferences of the Arab Gulf information ministers heralded a new phase in the unified information action of the Arab Gulf states--action which has accomplished great advances in information.

Al-Yasin explained that this conference, which is the third, has a special and extraordinary significance since it is a large step on the path of serving the Arab Gulf states. He said the requirements of the age and the current Arab situation, particularly in the Arab Gulf area, dictate that we embark on serious study of the topics submitted to the conference for discussion.

Seven [words indistinct] are participating in the experts meetings, including delegations under the under secretaries of the Ministries of Information; the Qatari delegation under the director of the Qatari radio station; and the Iraqi delegation under Nabil Najm, director of public relations at the Foreign Ministry. Arab League Assistant Secretary General Salim al-Yafi and a UNESCO delegation under Hamdi Qandil, assistant director of UNESCO, are also participating in the meetings.

Discuss Cooperation, Adopt Regulations

JN051550Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 5 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 February--The Iraqi delegation to the Arab Gulf information experts meeting announced today Iraq's ratification of the gulf television agreement. With the Iraqi ratification, all the legal formalities for this agreement are completed, as five countries out of seven have already ratified it. These countries are: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Iraq.

A conference of information ministers of the Arab Gulf scheduled to begin its meetings here on Thursday is expected to call on the Gulf Television Board of Administration to hold its first meeting as soon as possible. At a meeting here today, the agreement on the oil information center for Arab Gulf countries was adopted in principle. It will be submitted to the information ministers conference with a recommendation for the formation of a committee to discuss legal matters pertaining to the agreement in its final form and to determine the place where the center is to be set up.

It was also agreed that the Board of Administration of the GULF NEWS AGENCY will meet, following the meetings of the information ministers, in its capacity to adopt the agency's financial and administrative regulations, after approving certain technical amendments previously proposed by Iraq. It will also discuss the date of beginning actual transmissions to cover events of the Arab Gulf.

Hamdi Qandil, director of (?free-lance information and liaison) at UNESCO, pointed out the importance of information cooperation among Arab Gulf countries. He said that the GULF NEWS AGENCY will provide a vivid example of what is to be offered in the information field and will highlight the Arab Gulf's position at the international level.

Mr Qandil explained that this news agency constitutes an example for other regional news agencies in other parts of the world. He further said that the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY by sponsoring the nonalined news agencies pool has provided a vivid example of true information cooperation.

The Arab Gulf information experts decided to raise the capital of the Corporation for Joint Program Production of the Arab Gulf countries to 4 million dinars to enable it to produce special programs on the problems of these countries. A joint formula for transmitting Arab and international sports tournaments was also agreed upon.

The experts also decided to prepare a declaration determining censorship regulations for Arab and foreign films transmitted by Arab Gulf television stations. All films that contradict Arab values will be banned. In this connection, a technical committee comprising delegation members has been formed to draft the declaration. Another committee was set up to discuss the subject of holding joint mobile exhibitions outside the Arab world.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE DENIES SOVIET OFFICIAL TO VISIT

NC061533Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 6 February--A responsible source in the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has denied reports that a high-ranking Soviet official will visit Kuwait within the next few days. The source said that there are no arrangements for a visit by any Soviet official to Kuwait at present.

QATAR

ELF OFFICIAL PRAISES QATARI AID TO ERITREA

JN061943Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1918 GMT 6 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 6 February--Abdallah Suleiman, member of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] and chairman of the front's Foreign Relations Bureau, has praised the pan-Arab, wise and sincere policy followed by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar.

In a statement to a QNA correspondent, the Eritrean official expressed his pride and that of the ELF and Eritrean people over the wise policy followed by his highness the amir of Qatar. The Eritrean official praised the material and moral aid rendered by Qatar and the Qatari people to the Eritrean revolution in its just and legitimate struggle against the invading colonialist forces of occupation.

The Eritrean official said that Qatar continues to give aid to the Eritrean revolution. He said this aid is genuine and effective and must be praised. The Eritrean official said that he will leave Damascus early next week for Qatar on a visit to express his thanks to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and the officials of Qatar for the aid rendered and to hold talks on the latest developments in the Horn of Africa.

The Eritrean official arrived here the day before yesterday at the head of a delegation from the front on a visit to Syria which will last several days.

UAE

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI

NC0611?8Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 6 February--YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj has arrived in Abu Dhabi from Riyadh on a visit to the UAE in the course of a tour of a number of Arab states.

YEMEN--PDRY

HASANI RETURNS FROM USSR, IRAQ, ASSESSES VISIT

LD061542Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani and the government delegation accompanying him returned home today after completing official visits to the USSR and Iraq. The prime minister was met at the airport by Chairman Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali and other officials. On the occasion of his return from Moscow and Baghdad, the prime minister said: "I would like to say with great satisfaction that our visit to the friendly USSR was crowned with success. Its results evoke our satisfaction and will strengthen the ties of friendship between ourselves and the USSR. Our visit to the USSR afforded us the opportunity of meeting and discussing with the Soviet leaders, first and foremost with comrade Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and Comrade Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers; bilateral cooperation and friendship as well as the international situation. The situation in Europe, the Middle East and the Horn of Africa; ways for strengthening international peace and detente; and resistance to world imperialism and its aggressive militarist policy pitted against the trend of the times and the will of the people--these issues occupied an important place in our agenda. I can say that our views were unanimous on all questions discussed and in complete harmony with the will of our two peoples and parties.

"The talks were dominated by a spirit of cordiality and friendship, and for this reason we say with all confidence that the results of our visit to the USSR [word indistinct] more the relations of friendship and cooperation that bind the Soviet people to our Yemeni people. In this respect we voice our great esteem and regard for the internationalist solidarity and offered by the Soviet people to our people, the Arab peoples and the Palestinian revolution.

"During our visit to Moscow a new agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the two countries was signed. According to the agreement, the USSR will participate in implementing and financing a number of projects to be included among the projects of the second 5-year plan. The visit has demonstrated that the PDRY has friends on whom it can rely for the sake of developing the material and spiritual life of our people.

"Our visit to Iraq, which followed our visit to the USSR, was successful. We can say that our talks and consultations with brother Saddam Husayn were dominated by a spirit of brotherhood and joint participation in the pan-Arab struggle [words indistinct] and the perils threatening the future of the Arab peoples and their true progressive forces. The talks were fruitful and [word indistinct] to strengthen the fraternal amity between Democratic Yemen and fraternal Iraq for the sake of enhancing the role of the Arab liberationist movement in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

"Prior to my official visit to the USSR, I visited the Syrian Arab Republic. We held talks with brother Hafiz al-Asad and with brother Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, the prime minister, on the latest developments in the Middle East situation.

"Our views concurred on the importance of continuing the united march of the progressive forces in face of the perils threatening our Arab peoples. We emphasized the importance of strengthening cohesion with the Palestinian revolution in order to realize the objectives and national rights of the Palestinian people. In Syria we met brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, with whom we exchanged views on a number of issues affecting the destiny of the struggle of the Arab peoples and the importance of supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO."

YEMEN--YAR

CONSTITUENT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY FORMED BY COUNCIL

JN0621360Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 78 JN

[Constitutional proclamation]

[Text] The chairman of the Command Council, after taking cognizance of the permanent constitution, of Command Council Declaration No 1 of 1974; of the constitutional proclamation issued on 22 October 1975 organizing the constitutional situation for the transient stage; of the Command Council statement dated 11 November 1977; of Election Law No 8 of 1975; of Command Council Decision No 78 of 1975 on the formation of a Higher Elections Committee; and after the approval of the Command Council, has decided the following:

Article 1. The assembly will be made up of 99 members to be chosen by the Command Council. The decision forming the assembly will be issued by the Command Council chairman.

Article 2. The functions of the assembly will be the following:

A. Basic functions:

1. To propose the form of the presidency;

2. To amend those articles of the constitution which do not conform to the requirements of the present stage or age and to derive benefit from previous studies and proposals on this subject and submit them to the Command Council; and

3. To carry out the functions of the Elections Committee, of the Preparatory Committee of the Popular Conference, and of the scientific commission for the codification of the shari'a laws.

B. Complementary functions:

1. To submit comments on the draft laws and codifications referred to it by the Command Council;

2. To review the government's declaration on the state budget;

3. To study all the subjects referred to it by the Command Council related to the activities of the higher rectification committee, to audits and censorship, to investigation departments and to the general union of immigrants; and

4. To submit comments on all questions and subjects dealing with the local and foreign situation, including economic, social, educational and cultural questions referred to it by the Command Council chairman.

Article 3. The capital of San'a' will be the seat of the assembly.

Article 4. The term of the assembly is 2-3 years to enable it to complete its basic functions.

Article 5. Every session of the assembly will be convened by the Command Council chairman. The period of each session will be 6 months each year.

Article 6. Assembly members will take the following oath before the Command Council chairman: I swear by God Almighty to uphold the Book of God and the Code of the Prophet; to be loyal to my religion, homeland and nation; to protect the presidential regime, the principles of the revolution and the 13 June Corrective Movement; to respect the constitution and the laws; to be faithful to and protective of the liberties of the nation and its dignity; to exert all my efforts and strength to preserve the sovereignty and independence of the homeland; to defend the security of its territories; and to carry out the tasks with which I am entrusted together with the other members with honor, sincerity and loyalty. God is my witness.

Article 7. At each of its sessions the assembly will chose a president and two vice presidents. The Command Council must approve the choice.

Article 8. The assembly may form the committees it deems necessary to carry out the functions it is entrusted with.

Article 9. The sessions of the assembly are open. The assembly may in the public interest decide to hold secret sessions.

Article 10. No provision of the permanent constitution, or of the decisions or constitutional proclamations enacted following the issuance of the permanent constitution, may be abrogated unless such provision contradicts one of the provisions of this constitutional proclamation.

Article 11. This constitutional proclamation becomes effective as of the date of its issuance and will be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued by the Command Council on 6 February 1978.

[Signed] Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces

AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES LETTER FROM KING HUSAYN

JN021425Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Feb 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 2 February--Lt Col Ahmad al-Ghashmi, YAR Command Council chairman, has received a letter from King Husayn of Jordan. The letter was delivered by the Jordanian ambassador in San'a' when he met Al-Ghashmi today. The SABA' NEWS AGENCY says the letter deals with the current Arab situation and bilateral relations.

BRIEFS

ABU DHABI OIL PRODUCTION--Abu Dhabi, 4 February--The total crude oil production of the petroleum companies operating in Abu Dhabi amounted to 602,765,319 barrels in 1977. The total exports for the same year amounted to 596,285,390 barrels. This came in statistics issued by the Petroleum and Industry Department in Abu Dhabi. [Text] [Doha QNA in Arabic 0825 GMT 4 Feb 78 NC]

MENA CARRIES AS-SADAT SPEECH AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

LD061912Y Cairo MENA in English 1847 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Speech by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat at 6 February luncheon at National Press Club in Washington, DC]

[Text] Washington, 6 Feb, MENA--Mr Chairman, thank you very much for granting me this wonderful opportunity to meet and exchange views with you. I must warn you first that you are talking to a former journalist, who remains faithful to that great profession and is aware of all the rules of the game.

I understand that you are interested in the Middle East problem and, hence, you would like to hear from me about it. I do not intend to deliver a speech. I am only exchanging with you a few remarks.

As you know, I undertook my peace initiative last November against untold odds. First, there was that formidiable wall of barriers. Events of the past 30 years, and even before that, have served to fortify this wall through the accumulation of suspicion and distrust. It was only natural for this atmosphere to generate hatred and tension. Four major wars, in addition to hundreds of skirmishes here and there, solidified this feeling and rooted it deeply in the minds and hearts of almost every person in the region. No party was able to impose its will on the other. However, the hysteria of war and revenge persisted. Misconceptions and stereotypes about "the enemy" and his intentions flourished on both sides.

Under such circumstances, it was unthinkable for any one to attempt to break this vicious circle. I gave the subject deep thought and deliberation. I was looking beyond wars and devastation. I said, "there must be an end to that state of affairs." However, that end was never in sight. As early as February 4, 1971, that is to say, only 4 months after I assumed office, I introduced my first peace initiative, but it fell on deaf ears, as you all know.

The October war helped rectify the situation to some extent. It remedied the state of imbalance, especially from the psychological point of view. However, many other obstacles remained untouched. When we spoke about solving the problem, no one imagined that it could be eliminated totally, even with a stroke of genius. As we spoke of the "termination of belligerency," it was generally assumed that we were talking in the legal sense of the word. It was beyond imagination, and, in fact, it is beyond the comprehension of many up until this very moment, that both sides could jump suddenly from the state of war to friendship and cooperation. We thought, not without reason, that it would take another generation to give it a try.

I introduced my second peace initiative on October 16, 1973, while the battle was approaching its peak. All parties concerned, and even outside observers, were thinking only of ending the state of war. When the Geneva peace conference convened in response to my proposal, it generated a glimmer of hope. Millions thought that, at long last, we can take the right step now that both parties have learned the lesson. Nevertheless, the situation remained basically unchanged. Parties resorted anew to futile arguments, and invaluable time was wasted on the insertion of a word here and there. We could have continued along those lines for years. We literally spent years in preparation for the reconvening of the conference, for example, on procedural matters.

I felt that it was time to introduce a new element that could change the picture drastically. I said: "If this is the case while we are taking about procedural matters only, what about arguing the substance? How long will it take us to reach agreement on any point?"

I thought very deeply and thoroughly. You can imagine how lonely it was, as I was thinking of the unthinkable. It was no less than a mental revolution in the full sense of the word. It ran contrary, not only to prevailing norms, but most importantly, to the accumulated sentiment in such an emotionally charged conflict. When I went to Jerusalem, it was the impossible mission that went far beyond the wildest of dreams. No one can belittle the dimensions of this historic act today or tomorrow. You have described it as an act of courage and vision. To me, it was, and still is, an article of faith--faith in mankind and in the future.

Some are suggesting, in hindsight, that I should have bargained with the Israelis, or perhaps with the United States, before taking this gigantic step. But they are missing the point. I did not go to Jerusalem to strike a deal, but to make peace. I did not go to win an argument, but to reassure the minds and hearts of millions of Israelis and Arabs. If some were unable to grasp the great significance of such a unique step, the fault is only theirs.

I was struck by the fact that the Israeli people were yearning for peace. If given the choice, no responsible person can opt for war and destruction. It is time for all thinking men and women in the four corners of the world to make their voices heard in favor of permanent peace and against the continuation of war as a means of solving disputes. It is illogical that after reaching such a high degree of progress, men still deem it permissible to resort to killing and devastation to resolve conflicts. This is not only a negation of the very essence of life, but it is also an indictment of our generations in the eyes of history.

Mr Chairman, following the historic mission to the holy city, we proceeded on the road to peace on the assumption that a new chapter had been opened. A new spirit would prevail. Old methods would be discarded. Worn-out concepts are no longer applicable in coping with this entirely new situation. The variables have been fundamentally changed. Therefore, the equation must be different. In the past, each side had been content to state its position and search for every available legal argument to support it. The task had been how best to justify the gap that separated the two positions, not how to bridge it.

I thought that it was time to reverse this picture. The challenge is how to accommodate the differences and not how to debate. It is how to win the minds and hearts of people. It is how to mobilize the masses on both sides for the cause of peace. We have to reinforce their belief that peace is not only necessary but also possible. We have to deepen their commitment to that cause and prove to them that it is attainable. Thus, it was a must to usher in a new era with a new set of values and attitudes.

I must tell you in all candor, however, that events of the past few weeks have caused us some concern. The Israeli Government has chosen to go back into the vicious circle of arguing over every single word or comma. They are resorting, again, to the old tactics and worn-out ideas. One gets the impression that there is a deliberate attempt to erase the impact of the historic initiative and divest it of its driving spirit. This is most dangerous and no one stands to gain from such a development.

I firmly believe that the initiative belongs now to all the peoples on earth. It has become part of the collective human conscience. It is the living symbol of the salvation of our souls.

Mr Chairman, dear friends, I knew, all along, that the road to peace was not full of roses. It is an arduous process that requires hard work, dedication and perseverance. But I must tell you in all frankness that I was disappointed to see certain negative developments that could endanger our effort against all expectations and despite the good will that exists.

As we proved, beyond any doubt, that we are willing to accept Israel fully as a good neighbor; as we said that we are prepared to live in peace and harmony with the Israeli people; as we expressed our genuine desire to make the October war the last war if the other side accepts its obligations under the UN Charter and the general principles of international law; as I said that we are willing to declare the applicability of the right to innocent passage through the Strait of Tiran; as we did all that, we were told, also, that the Palestinian people are not entitled to the right to self-determination, which is a fundamental human right. We were told that the Israeli Government would rather resign than compromise on the illegal settlements that were built on Arab land in defiance of world public opinion as reflected in unanimous UN resolutions. We are told that Israel does not need our recognition.

This is not the spirit of Jerusalem. This is no way to establish peace and eliminate war and hatred. This attitude is liable to revive old misconceptions and suspicions. (?It) is apt to rebuild the old barriers between the Arab nation and the Israeli people. That would be most tragic indeed.

It has been suggested that any negotiation is, by definition, a process of give and take. In other words, it involves successive concessions by both sides. Hence, the Arabs should keep negotiating and bargaining regardless of the Israeli attitude. I would like to make it crystal clear that we remain committed to the cause of peace. I am determined to give it every possible chance. Despite all difficulties, we will persevere. To us, the pursuit of peace is a strategic goal which we pursue with determination.

I know that the notion of **bargaining** and making concessions is an accepted value in the American system. It has a certain appeal to you as a means of settling claims and resolving disputes. But I submit that it has to be looked upon in a different light in this particular case.

This is the case where one party has voluntarily declared its willingness to meet its obligations on the basis of reciprocity. In other words that party has already fulfilled its share of the bargain.

Naturally one cannot be asked to make concessions unilaterally. But the fact remains that we have expressed our genuine willingness to fulfill all our obligations under the definition of the essentials for peace in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242. A comprehensive settlement of this conflict, like any other, involves delicate balance between two sets of obligation, one for each party.

We are on record as agreeing to fulfill our part. Needless to say, this acceptance depends on the agreement of the other side to declare its readiness to assume its obligations and fulfill them.

What is needed is the implementation of Resolution 242 in all its parts. We stated that we are ready to accept the following:

1. The termination of belligerency, together with all of its corollaries, such as the Arab boycott.
2. The establishment of peaceful relations.
3. Providing all the necessary guarantees for the security of every state.
4. Allowing innocent passage through the Strait of Tiran.
5. Respect for the right of every state in the area to sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

Those who say that the Arab recognition of Israel is neither required nor significant are missing the main point. The key word is acceptance, not only recognition. The former is an all-embracing concept, while the latter is a narrow legal one. The Israelis should be the first people to realize the subtle difference and appreciate it. When we offer to accept them fully and without any reservation as an independent entity in our midst, that should not be taken lightly.

I trust that you agree with me, dear friends, that it remains for the other party to reciprocate, by demonstrating his willingness to assume his obligations within the framework of a comprehensive settlement. To be specific, he is required to accept the following:

1. Withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since June 1967, in conformity with the principle of inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war.
2. Enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their natural right to self-determination.
3. Providing for the necessary guarantees for the security of Arab states.

It has been suggested that the establishment of any Palestinian entity, even when accompanied by all guarantees, means the destruction of Israel. This is a fallacy. A Palestinian state, linked with Jordan, will be a positive force of stability and normalcy in the area. Without it, the structure of peace will remain vulnerable. Any peace treaty could collapse so long as the Palestinians are left frustrated and unsatisfied. In short that would be an open invitation to renewed violence and unrest. The conflict would be like a volcano in a dormant state, which might erupt at any moment. Is this what we are working for?

The proposed Israeli solution for the West Bank and Gaza is simply inadequate. It is based on the continuation of occupation. It means the establishment of more illegal settlements in a heavily populated area where emotions run very high. I received many delegations of Palestinians who live in the West Bank and Gaza and they were all opposed to this concept. They were unanimous that it would not solve the problem. It is simply an evasion of the issue, which is not a marginal one. It is common knowledge, now, that it is the heart and core of the entire problem. Another factor which stands in the way of justice is that the Israeli position is hardening, rather than softening, as we go along. This is an impediment to peace.

After conceding their obligation to withdraw to the international boundaries of Egypt, they are saying that we should be contented with limited sovereignty over a certain part of our territory. When we showed appreciation of their need to feel secure, they began to put every conceivable item under the heading of security. The annexation of territory became a matter of security. The establishment of illegal settlements on other peoples' land became a matter of security.

Establishing more illegal settlements and expanding the existing ones in Arab land is an act of sheer defiance and escalation. It defies the fourth Geneva convention and several UN resolutions which this country endorses. It introduces a new complication to an already complicated problem. It generates hatred and friction between the two communities as it casts one of them in the role of the trespasser on the property of the other. It is indicative of the real intentions of the Israeli establishment that widens the gap of distrust and suspicion. What is our goal exactly? Reaching a peace settlement or building illegal settlements?

The Israeli Government cannot hide behind fanatic groups which are beating the drums of war in their feverish campaign to build these settlements. It is the task and responsibility of every government to curb the excesses of all individuals and groups. In fact, the government is leading the unholy march of the lawbreakers. They all should realize that the establishment of an ultramodern and foreign-financed ghetto around every Arab town is not a way to coexist. Coexistence can take place only through good neighborhood. It requires respect for one's feelings and property.

The Israeli policy of settlements is a shortcut to chaos and lawlessness. We, together with world public opinion, hold the Israeli Government responsible for this institutionalization of anarchy and aggression. It certainly jeopardizes the prospects for peace. If the Israeli Government thinks that it can use these settlements as a leverage in the negotiations, the answer is: No. It is stopped from using such an argument, for I knew, all along, that it was violating the law of nations as well as the norm of legitimacy.

It has been said that Israel made no commitment to anyone to refrain from building new settlements. Does compliance with the rule of law need a commitment? Does one have to make a commitment to live up to his obligations?

The Israelis have based their position with regard to Jerusalem on false arguments. They gloss over the fact that the Arab section of the city is part of the West Bank and, therefore, should be dealt with under the heading of Israeli withdrawal. To be sure, withdrawal does not mean the imposition of barriers or hindering free access to all parts of the holy city. Peoples of all creeds and nationalities should be guaranteed free access throughout the city which has a spiritual significance to all of us. What is needed is coexistence within an open city.

Very few of us are aware of the fact that Israel annexed a sizeable portion of the West Bank under the pretext of the unification of Jerusalem. Over the past few years, Israel has been expanding the radius of the city to include several Arab villages and small towns. If we accept the Israeli argument, then we will be condoning the annexation of land without saying so. That means that one party is taking advantage of his hold on the territory of the other to create a new reality, a fait accompli. This would be a negation of the essence of negotiating in good faith.

Let us not forget also that what is asked of the Israelis is not to make concessions. They are not asked to give up an inch of their territory. But they must know that they cannot ask for peace, security, acceptance, plus our territories. As you say, one cannot have the cake and eat it.

Mr Chairman, we are often advised to be patient. I know that every process should take its due course. I am both realistic and pragmatic. But you must realize that efforts exerted to solve the dispute go back to November 1967.

In other words, we did not start on Christmas Day 1977. For over 53 years, both sides had an opportunity to articulate their positions and examine their available options. My initiative has not added any new element to the dispute itself but it paved the way for resolving it. I sincerely believe that with good will and the spirit of reconciliation, we can reach a just and durable settlement in a matter of weeks.

Now, I propose to address myself to two questions before you address them to me. The first is related to what I intend to do in the days ahead. The second is about what this country could do in order to help.

I will proceed to answer the first question. By nature, I am neither a pessimist nor an alarmist. I am not given to despair or impatience. I never lose hope in the face of difficulties. To the contrary. I take this as a challenge. I am a fighter, and when I say that, I mean it. I also know that I am fighting for a noble cause.

It is true that I am rather disappointed, but I am determined to persevere. I shall continue my mission for the sake of Arabs and Israelis alike. The challenge is not how to harden one's position, but how best to meet one's responsibility with courage and magnanimity. Instead of being prisoners of the past, we should possess enough vision to look to the future. I am willing to give the experiment every possible chance, until I reach the conclusion that enough time has elapsed without achieving any tangible progress. I am not going to rush to this conclusion but the other side has to demonstrate the same spirit. It takes two to negotiate and reach an agreement, as you know.

Finally, I will outline to you my conception of the American role at this crucial crossroad. We do not want to cause you any problems, but we need your help to settle our problem. You have a special relationship with one party and a relationship of friendship and amity with the other. Israel relies heavily on your country, militarily, financially and politically. On the other hand, you have global interests. That puts you in a unique position to exert your influence and good offices for the sake of peace and stability.

We are not asking you to take sides or be partial. You are expected merely to be faithful to your own tradition and values. I am sure that you cannot be indifferent to the plight of the Palestinian people. Can the Americans, who fought for their independence, turn their backs to the right of self-determination? This right is the collective embodiment of human rights. Can the Americans tolerate, let alone support, the acquisition of territory by force? Do you accept the concept of secure borders as a means of expansion? When spacecraft are falling from the sky on foreign countries, how can anyone speak of security being defensible borders? Did not the October war prove the fallacy of the argument of defensible borders?

The constructive American role, as we conceive it, is more than that of a go-between. You are a full partner in the establishment of peace. You have a reservoir of good will behind you. In our judgement, you can work with the parties to accelerate the process. You can help them avoid the prospect of slipping back into the exchange of rhetoric and futile argumentation over procedural and marginal points. You can insist that disputes should be settled through compliance with the rule of law, not by submission to the dictates of force.

President Carter has devoted his time and efforts to help us reach a just settlement. He has been very helpful and understanding. He is a man of wisdom and courage. I enjoy dealing with him.

I told him, in our talks at Camp David, that we urge him to continue to play a positive role in the interests of both parties.

Efforts will have to doubled if we are to reaffirm the faith of many people in the area that peace is attainable. It is important to see that we are achieving progress as we go along in the process. We do not want to concentrate on procedure. The goal is substantive progress. Form is no substitute for substance. Technique cannot solve all problems.

Now, I can almost see a question mark on many faces with respect to our request for American arms. Let me state the following: We are anxious to stop the arms race. We are looking forward to the day when our acquisition of arms is minimal. We would even like to see the entire region demilitarized.

We were the first to call for making the Middle East a nuclear-free zone. But that can not be a unilateral act on our part. If we are to deemphasize armament, the other party must do the same. We are concerned with our security too. We have more reason to feel that way, with part of our land still occupied.

If the United States decides not to accelerate the arms race, we would welcome that. But if it takes another position, we will ask for equal treatment. Experience has belied the contention that a stronger Israel is liable to be more conciliatory and more able to make peace. What is needed is equilibrium, not imbalance.

In conclusion, I would like to invoke the words of the late President Kennedy: "Let us both join in creating a new endeavor. Not a new balance of power, but a new world of law, where the strong are just and the weak secure and the peace preserved."

Let us also pray with Isaiah that: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Question-Answer Session

NC062200Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1846 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Question-answer portion of National Press Club luncheon for Egyptian President as-Sadat--live in English with superimposed Arabic translation]

[Text] [Question] Can you tell us something specific about your talks with President Carter? Did you reach any specific agreements on tactics?

[Answer] I really enjoyed the 2 days I spent at Camp David. I also enjoyed the snow because we have no snow in the Middle East. We had three sessions of discussions, two private and a third with the delegations. We agreed that the peace process must maintain its momentum. Therefore Atherton will come to the area and will shuttle between Egypt and Israel. At the same time, as you know, I reached agreement with President Carter on convening the Military Committee. It had already convened 2 days before I came to you here and it will continue to meet, but the Political Committee will be Atherton's task when he comes to the area.

[Question] You mentioned Jerusalem in your speech. Considering the historic and religious significance of the city, would you consider, as part of a final peace settlement, the establishment of Jerusalem as an international city of peace under the administrative control and protection of the United Nations?

[Answer] Well, it has been said before that this is considered a solution--that is, Jerusalem will be international. However, the internationalization of Jerusalem was a proposal concerning the Arab part, which contains the holy places of the three religions. But if internationalization also applies to east and west, that is, to the whole city, we will approve of this. However, I am agreeable to a [word indistinct] principle. We must not divide the city again, but as I have said to Mr Begin and to many of you, at the end of the meeting in Jerusalem I told Prime Minister Begin: There is no Christian or Arab Moslem who would accept Israel's sovereignty over the holy places in Jerusalem.

[Question] As you envisage your viewpoint or expectations concerning peace in the Middle East, how long would this require to achieve?

[Answer] As I stated in my speech, I appeared at tiems tobe too daring. After my initiative, I saw no problems at all which would impede the achievement of an agreement, and not in a few weeks, but in a few days. When I went to Jerusalem in the course of my initiative, first of all, we brought down the barrier. My objective was to destroy this psychological barrier, the mistrust, the bitterness and the hate which had been accumulating for 30 years, and even before that time. You heard me saying that this problem is 70 percent psychological. Nobody can encroach on the territory or sovereignty of others. If agreement can be reached on this matter, I am confident that we can reach an agreement in less than 2 weeks. [applause]

[Question] If you fail in your current peace initiative, will you be able to reestablish credibility with the other Arab countries to serve as the leader of the Geneva peace conference?

[Answer] Well, sometimes I felt really--after my visit to Jerusalem, and after we had the Ismailia talks and then when the Political Committee in Jerusalem ended its meetings--believe me I felt that someone wanted me to regret making my visit to Jerusalem and taking this initiative. But I tell you quite frankly: I shall never regret my visit to Jerusalem. And as I have already said, I have chosen my destiny. My destiny is with peace. My destiny will remain linked to peace. I know that the achievement of peace is much more difficult than war. I have experienced both things and I know.

I shall never worry about the so-called rejectionist front. They represent only 5 of 21 states. They said the same thing following the first and second disengagement agreements. They accused me of treason and of everything, but in the end they apologized to me after the second disengagement agreement. But they did not achieve their aims despite these violent accusations.

But one act from Begin really disrupted everything. After my initiative and now that the rejectionists are trying to build a wall in the Arab states against me, Mr Begin says that these settlements will remain in our country and that he will defend them by means of the Israeli Army. That was a grave mistake.

As I told you, I have dedicated my efforts to peace. You listened to me when I visited President al-Asad and went to Damascus before my visit to Jerusalem. I told him: I shall be very happy if this will be my last mission as president. And I keep this opinion up to this moment.

[Question] If Israel accedes to all the conditions, what guarantee will Egypt offer that this will not be a base for it to attack Israel?

[Answer] My initiative has made it very easy for Israel and the United States to achieve our goal, the first goal being peace. As I said in my speech, I am not asking for any concessions from Israel. I gave them everything when I visited Jerusalem. Before this they had not been accepted in the area. I told them: We accept you. Before the visit there were no direct contacts. I went to Jerusalem while part of my Egyptian territory was occupied. I have offered everything to Israel and I have not asked it to make any concessions. If they consider handing over the territories they occupied after 1967 a concession, then they are mistaken. It is not their land. They occupied it after the 1967 war. I am not asking any concessions of Israel, except a very simple principle for achieving peace: No one of us should encroach on the land and right of the other and let us live as neighbors.

[Question] There is a shortage of spare parts for the Soviet arms. Will Egypt be able to fight at this time and has President Carter told you that he will give Egypt arms?

[Answer] It was my destiny that immediately after the October war, when Dr Kissinger visited us for the first time in 1973, that the Soviet Union was infuriated by this and imposed a ban on me from that day, that is, November 1973. Since that time, Israel has replenished all the arms it had lost. As you know, someone in the Pentagon said that the stores of the U.S. Army had been sent to Israel. They were compensated for everything they had lost in the 1973 war, in addition to receiving sophisticated, complex arms.

As far as Syria is concerned, the Soviet Union did the same thing because Syria replenished all the arms which it had lost in the October war. There are Soviet arms in Syria. But the Soviet Union imposed an embargo on me and refused to replenish the arms I had lost. I applied to buy arms. We have never taken arms gratis. We purchased arms from the Soviet Union. But the Soviet Union refused and they sent me a letter, a letter which I had made public, to the effect that they had rejected the word replenish. They also refused to discuss with me the rescheduling of debts.

The main aim of the Soviet Union is to see my arms, more than 90 percent of which are Soviet arms, turned to scrap. However, President Carter has contributed and helped as has Britain. Last October, a few months ago, my air force participated in the 6 October parade. We thank the Soviet Union because it has taught us to depend on ourselves. I have made an application to President Carter at Camp David. And this time, as I stated in my speech, I am the friend of the United States and my people are friends of the American people and we find the same feeling on your side. I have placed the whole situation before President Carter and have asked him to make the proper decisions, particularly since there are those in Africa who, because of the vicious policies pursued by a big state there, have asked for my help.

I need not say that I will use what I get against Israel, because, as I have told you, I have specified my ideology: I am for peace. And if I am unable to do this, well, let another person do it.

[Question] Mr President, [words indistinct] this appreciation by the Press Club and there is a final question I put to you. If everything ends happily in the Middle East, will you and Prime Minister Begin be able to bury the hatchet?

[Answer] Here is a story. When I was in Jerusalem, I met Mrs Meir. I had always described her as the old lady.

On the same day that I was in the Knesset at a meeting with the Labor Party, my daughter gave birth to a child. While we were in a room of the Knesset and I was discussing the Middle East issue, Mrs Meir came forward and said: You always call me the old lady. Very well, I have learned that you have a granddaughter and this is a little gift from an old lady to an old grandfather. [laughter and applause]

CAIRO RADIO CARRIES AS-SADAT INTERVIEW WITH NBC

NC061716Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1241 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Interview granted by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat to NBC's David Brinkley on 5 February--recorded; in English with superimposed Arabic translation]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, what is your impression of your talks with President Carter?

[Answer] First of all, I would like to seize this opportunity, the first accorded me to (?talk) on American television, to thank all the American people for their touching sentiments which have been expressed in various ways following my visit to Jerusalem. I have been very touched, especially by the sentiments which have been expressed by the Jewish community. I feel grateful to them and would like to tell you that I will not disappoint you; that I will not disappoint any of the American people. I will not disappoint any of those who have supported my initiative.

We spent 2 days at Camp David. It was a family meeting. We had three sessions, two of which were between President Carter and myself and the third with the delegations. We surveyed the whole situation. We surveyed the situation in the Middle East and tne Arab-Israeli conflict; the situation in Africa, in the Horn of Africa; bilateral relations; and my demand that the United States sell me arms.

[Question] Has there been any response to this demand?

[Answer] I am not looking seeking just planes. It is the principle of the thing. After my initiative, as you are aware, I was not asking for arms [words indistinct] balance in the Middle East. I have responsibilities not only in my country, but I must also help my African brothers who are asking for my assistance. On my way to Washington, I received two urgent messages, one from the president of Chad and the other from Somali President Siad Barre.

[Question] Did you discuss the subject of arms with President Carter and what was the response (?to your request)?

[Answer] Yes, I discussed this with President Carter. I put all of my demands before him. As you are aware, President Carter must refer to the U.S. Congress before responding to my request. President Carter fully understands the objective behind my request.

[Question] (?With regard to) the Middle East, what has President Carter proposed and said about a solution of the problem?

[Answer] First, I am grateful to President Carter who invited me here to hold discussions on the problems dominating our area. This has given me the opportunity to continue the talks which began in April 1977. We have been talking right up until this moment. We certainly discussed all the events that have taken place since I arrived at Camp David. We reached total understanding on the next steps. Mr Atherton will return to the area and will shuttle between Egypt and Israel to resume or try again to (?reconvene) the Military and Political committees.

[Question] Do you believe that the negotiations with Israel will be [word indistinct] in the near future?

[Answer] In fact, the Military Committee has met and an agreement has been reached between myself and Mr Begin regarding this committee. The committee is holding its session now. [as heard] The meetings were going on 24 hours before I came here. We discussed resumption of the Political Committee meetings on [words indistinct] agreement was also reached in Ismailia. I told President Carter why I asked my delegation to return from Jerusalem. As I told you, Mr Atherton will return to the area and will shuttle back and forth until we reach an agreement on resuming the meetings of the Political Committee.

[Question] Did you take other steps following the Aswan meetings with President Carter?

[Answer] There is agreement on some points between us and President Carter.

[Question] Will your negotiations lead to a comprehensive solution in the area?

[Answer] Our talks at Camp David centered on reassessing the current situation. As I told you, since we began our meetings last April and in the wake of the difficulties that we encountered in the Political Committee in Jerusalem, we reached some agreements, including an agreement to have Mr Atherton return to the area to mediate between us and Israel so as to [words indistinct] the two positions.

[Question] Are you prepared to continue the discussions, or are there obstacles on the road?

[Answer] My position is as follows: I felt that we were following the wrong course. Before the Political Committee meetings were held, when we declared that the committee would meet in Jerusalem and that U.S. Secretary of State Vance would participate in the discussions, I understood that some measures took place and some statements were made. Some Israeli ministers declared their desire to establish new settlements in Sinai. This was later announced on Israeli radio and on television. Immediately after that, it was broadcast that the Israeli cabinet has rejected that demand but had agreed to the strengthening of existing settlements in Sinai.

All this had happened, as I have told you, a few days prior to the convocation of the Political Committee. Therefore, I urgently convened the National Security Council on the day our foreign minister was to travel to Jerusalem. The National Security Council met. I was not happy at all. Not only that, but I can say that I felt disappointed because these maneuvers which had occurred before the convening of the political session meant that the Israelis were continuing to maneuver and we could not do anything. Before the convening of the National Security Council, I received a letter from President Carter saying that Secretary of State Vance would go to Jerusalem after he had postponed his visit, as you remember, for 24 hours. If you ask me about my feelings at that time, I did not then welcome such a meeting. In such a situation as had occurred, the committee meeting should not have been held at all. But President Carter affirmed that the secretary of state was proceeding to Jerusalem. So I agreed to my delegation going there and to our trying to tackle the problems which we were facing. As I have told you, I felt that we were following the wrong course.

[Question] What do you mean by the wrong course, Mr President?

[Answer] Following my initiative of last November, I believed that we had overcome the complexes and all the problems because the Israelis had always asked for our recognition.

Following my initiative, it became clear that the negotiations would be direct. They had asked us to recognize them, and I had agreed. They had asked for what is called the nature of peace and also open borders and various other measures. I said following my visit to Jerusalem, as you remember, that we had agreed with the Israeli Government after I had been received by the Israeli people in a way which I cannot really describe--and this had moved me greatly.

I said: Let us put an end to wars after the October war. Sit around the table and discuss this. I believe that after all that, we would actually get down to business. I did not expect the attitude which I had witnessed concerning, for instance, the settlements and the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people. This gives you some explanation of what you had asked about the wrong course.

[Question] Mr Begin sent a letter in which he says that you are asking Israel to hand over Sinai, to demilitarize Sinai, to cede the West Bank, to set up a Palestinian state, and to withdraw from the Golan. Begin says that this is considered a death warrant for Israel. What is your opinion on this? Do you remember this?

[Answer] When he evacuates Sinai, he will be evacuating our land. When he evacuates the Golan, he will be evacuating Syrian land. This is no concession on his part. The spirit behind my initiative is to (?let us forget) the problems of 30 years, and even the problems which have prevailed in the last century. Let us set all these problems aside. As we are on the threshhold of a new era in our area, we must not cling to scattered strategic interests. We must not encroach upon the territory of others. These are my ideas. What the Israeli prime minister is talking about is the so-called Israeli security theory. I believe that in the wake of my initiative in visiting Jerusalem we have destroyed the psychological barrier; we have destroyed all this.

Believe me, when I say the other side, I mean the Israeli Government. I am not talking about the Israeli people because I have personally seen and felt their feelings. I say that if the Israeli Government has clung to this security theory, it is imperative for the Israeli Government to set it aside completely now in the wake of my initiative of last November.

[Question] Now, in your capacity as the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, how will you respond if you are able to arrive at a result concerning Sinai or a solution related to Sinai? What is your policy toward the West Bank and how will you be able to remove these settlements from Sinai?

[Answer] I will answer frankly. This time we are seeking the achievement of a lasting peace in the area and this is not to be done through a bilateral agreement between me and Israel or through a third disengagement agreement. We are after, or we aim to achieve, a comprehensive solution in the area. If we do not find a solution for the issue and for the Palestinian people's problem, there will be no peace in the area because the Palestinian people's problem is the essence and core of the whole problem. Since we seek peace in the area, then it is imperative for us to solve this problem.

[Question] In view of all these problems can you reach an agreement?

[Answer] I will tell you what I believe. Let us reach a kind of agreement, an agreement on the principles of a comprehensive solution. Afterward, the various parties will sit down with Israel to discuss what concerns them, including this security issue.

[Question] We wish success for [word indistinct]. Begin, the Israeli prime minister, will visit Washington in the immediate future and we will be delighted to meet him and to learn about the viewpoints of [word indistinct]. Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES AS-SADAT PEACE DRIVE

NC061525Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 February--Mamduh Salim, prime minister and leader of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt, has affirmed that President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative will ultimately bring about just peace in accordance with the principles laid down by President as-Sadat. These principles are withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the right of self-determination for the Palestinians.

Salim said that the intense contacts which President as-Sadat has held with the political decision-making centers in the world have led to the exposure of Israel's stand and have rallied support from various world groups for the just principles laid down by him for establishing peace in the Middle East.

This came in a speech which Mamduh Salim delivered at the meeting which the parliamentary body of the party held this morning with members of the training course for the provincial secretaries of the party. The meeting, which was held at party headquarters, was chaired by Mamduh Salim.

The leader of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt explained that President as-Sadat's peace drive has made the world and Israel aware of their responsibility to achieve a just peace, particularly now that the world has seen for itself the falsehood of Israel's allegations and now that Israel's intransigent stand toward the cause of peace has been exposed.

He said that President as-Sadat's initiative has revealed that Israel is not ready to shoulder the responsibilities of peace. It has also shown that Israel still adheres to old theories based on expansionist ambitions and opposition to the legitimate right of self-determination for the Palestinians.

He affirmed that Israel will ultimately give in to the principles which were pronounced in President as-Sadat's initiative. He said we must not expect this to happen in a short time. The road is still long and difficult and requires vigilance to confront Israel's delaying tactics and attempts to obscure the issue.

During the meeting, which was attended by Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din and Muhammad Hamid Mahmud, general secretaries of the party, Mamduh Salim emphasized the importance of the training courses which are being organized for the leaders of the party to facilitate their mission in enlightening the masses and acquainting them with what national action has achieved at home and abroad.

He said that this meeting comes at an important juncture, particularly since President Anwar as-Sadat--with all his concentration, capability and wisdom--has launched a drive among the influential centers in the world in order to establish a just and lasting peace in the area. Moreover, Egypt and the Arab nation have proved that they are capable of destroying the Israeli illusions and the security theory based on armed force and retention of land.

Salim noted that President as-Sadat's important contacts in the United States and Europe and with the Arab and African states come at a time when democratic practices and political, economic, social and technical openness are making tangible progress in Egypt.

President as-Sadat's contacts also come at a time when freedoms are being exercised in Egypt. The principles of these freedoms have been established by the May corrective movement through the state of institutions, the sovereignty of the law and constitutional legality.

GHALI MEETS U.S. CHARGE, FRENCH AMBASSADOR

NC061800Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 February--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali this evening met with the U.S. charge d'affairs, Mr Matthews, within the framework of the constant contacts between Egypt and the United States to activate the Middle East issue.

Dr Ghali also met today with the French ambassador in Cairo, Jacques Senard, and reviewed with him the current situation in the Middle East in the light of the events of the last few weeks and the contacts which Egypt is currently holding with the United States and other states. The minister affirmed Egypt's stand toward the declaration of principles, a stand which is based on the need for complete withdrawal from all territories occupied during the 1967 aggression and the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people. Discussion also centered on Europe's role in activating the peace efforts and the security guarantees. The discussion also dealt with bilateral relations between Egypt and France.

GHALI POSTPONES TOUR OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

NC061742Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 February--MENA has learned that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has postponed his tour of a number of West African states. The tour was scheduled to begin tomorrow.

The decision to postpone the tour was made to enable the minister to furnish the African heads of state with more information on the latest developments in the Middle East, in light of the results which will come from President Anwar as-Sadat's current tour, particularly his visit to the United States and his talks with U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

MENA ANNOUNCES AS-SADAT 11-12 FEB VISIT TO ROMANIA

NC041144Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 February--Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, will pay a friendly visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania on 11 and 12 February in response to an invitation from Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE SENDS MESSAGE TO AS-SADAT

NC061725Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1716 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 January--Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre for President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat dealing with the latest developments in Somalia. The message was handed to Vice President Mubarak by Somali Ambassador in Cairo Abdulrahim Farah, during a meeting between the two today which was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

AL-JUMHURIYAH: SYRIA BLOCKS IMPORTS THROUGH TURKEY, LEBANON

TA061231Y Paris AFP in English 1128 GMT 6 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 6 (AFP)--Syria is attempting an economic "blockade" of Iraq by holding up freight trains from Turkey and requisitioning Iraqi imports reaching Tripoli in Lebanon and Tartus and Latakia in Syria, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH said today, citing authoritative Iraqi sources.

Several dozen trains carrying 80,000 tons of food and building material were halted, it said.

To beat the blockade, trucks were running from Turkey to Iraq without going through Syria; Turkey had reduced haulage rates to ease the flow of vehicles.

The sources were quoted as saying that Syria has confiscated some freight arriving at the Lebanese and Syrian ports destined for Iraq.

NATIONAL FRONT STATEMENT SUPPORTS TUNIS 'UPSURGE'

JN041545Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 4 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 February--The Progressive National and Nationalist Front has expressed total support for and solidarity with the Tunisian masses struggling for liberation, socialism and Arab unity. This came in a statement issued by the front today. The statement called on all revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland and the world to support the upsurge of the Tunisian Arab people.

The front called for the release of all the detained strugglers in Tunisia and for stopping the campaign against the patriotic national forces. The front said that the upsurge of the Arab people in Tunisia is a brilliant landmark in the Arab nation's march and heroic struggle to emerge from the ages of slavery, darkness, repression and monopoly.

The front pointed out that the upsurge reflects the Tunisian people's awareness, enthusiasm, revolutionary spirit and fateful link with the issues of their nation and its just struggle for their rights and aims. It says that the struggle of the Tunisian people, under the leadership of their progressive national and pan-Arab forces and trade union organizations, has assumed patriotic dimensions as a result of their major confrontation with the policy of the ruling regime, its links with imperialist and reactionary forces, its blatant traitorous calls for the liquidation of the Palestine issue, and its linking of the national economy to foreign capitalism. The front says that these practices have led to the poverty and starvation of the Tunisian masses as a result of soaring prices, the increase in the cost of living and the unemployment of the vast majority of citizens.

The front further says that the stifling economic and social situation in Tunisia has been characterized by wide contradictions between the majority of the masses and the parasitic faction around the regime. A policy of suffocation of the people, thwarting of their will, and repression of their freedom, involving methods of suppression and liquidation, has been practiced against the progressive strugglers.

The front points out that this policy, hostile to the masses, has been widely denounced by the masses and the progressive national and patriotic forces. The latest popular uprising was a clear expression of the wrath of the masses against the regime and its policy. The front says that the Tunisian masses came out, defying the bullets of the regime and its forces, to write in blood and with sacrifice and struggle the most splendid chapter of their struggling history, which is full of heroism and sacrifice. They want to affirm the fateful aims of liberation, socialism and Arab unity.

PROVISIONAL COMMAND OF BA'TH SCORES AL-ASAD REGIME

JN042105Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 4 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 February--The Provisional Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Syria has called on our Arab masses in Syria to boycott Hafiz al-Asad's regime and its institutions and to continue the struggle to foil its treasonous plans and projects. This came in a statement issued by the Provisional Command on the occasion of the ruling Syrian regime's announcement of a referendum for the reelection of Haifiz al-Asad as president for a new term of 7 years. The statement was broadcast by the Voice of Arab Syria, monitored here today.

The statement hailed the position of the Syrian Arab people toward the election farce of what is called the Syrian People's Assembly. This farce Al-Asad's regime carried out last August, and it was boycotted by the masses.

The statement dealt with the nature of the Al-Asad regime, its hostile course toward national and pan-Arab interests, and its affiliation with imperialist and Zionist plans. The statement further says that the Hafiz al-Asad regime has taken Syria off the path of the Arab revolutionary movement and has prevented Syria from carrying out its pan-Arab role to achieve serious unity steps.

The Provisional Regional Command of the party in Syria stressed that the state of general deterioration on the Arab level, the retreat of the revolutionary tide and the intensity of the reactionary onslaught on the Arab homeland is in great part due to this regime [words indistinct] this regime is indebted for its persistent existence to these plans.

The statement adds: The Haifz al-Asad regime has deprived the masses of our people of the right to defend the homeland and of the right to struggle for its liberation. The Syrian regime continued its retreat before the enemy in June [1967] and October [1973] and accepted the Security Council resolutions which consecrated the presence of the Zionist enemy. It continues on the road to capitulation and settlements.

The statement by the Provisional Regional Command pointed out the role which the Syrian regime had played in Lebanon. The statement said the regime, not satisfied with playing its role inside Syria, extended its control over Lebanon to slaughter the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement, allying itself with the reactionaries and agents. These are the Syrian regime's accomplices in its criminal plans.

The statement unveiled the extent of the damage caused to the national economy under the regime of the mercenaries and those who accept bribes. The statement says that the open-door policy adopted by the regime has served only the bourgeois class of those who peddle the food of the people and accumulate wealth at the expense of leaving our people hungry. Signing accords with and granting privileges to U.S. imperialism and its institutions has made our economy a satellite of the imperialist economy which fails to carry out its role of insuring the requirements of the citizens and those of national defense.

The statement by the Provisional Regional Command of the party pointed out the attempt at open deception carried out by the regime when it formed a farcical investigation committee, which was not taken seriously by anyone. This committee immediately disappeared before the crimes and actions of the officials of the regime.

The statement also praised the stands of our masses [words indistinct] the elections of the People's Assembly. The statement said that the boycott called by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the nationalist and progressive forces was total and successful. The statement added that this council presents [words indistinct] Hafiz al-Asad as a candidate to the presidency. We are certain that the masses and their nationalist and progressive forces will remain steadfast in their heroic stand [words indistinct]. The statement recalled the referendums and elections by Husni az-Za'im and Ash-Shishakli.

The statement also said that Hafiz al-Asad has tailored his constitution according to his own desires and has exploited all the institutions so that he will have all authority in his own hands. The statement added that the people are well aware that Husni az-Za'im reached the presidency through a referendum and a constitution and that Ash-Shishakli also came to it after fabricating a party and in accordance with a constitution and a referendum.

The statement further said what is more bitter and dangerous is the continuation of the regime on its course on the road to the settlement, its acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338, and its calling for negotiations with the enemy in Geneva or elsewhere, even after the biggest treason in the modern history of the Arabs, namely, the As-Sadat visit to the Zionist entity and his recognition of that entity. Yet such a visit is but the natural result of the settlement course adopted by the two allies and their friends.

The statement added that Hafiz al-Asad still refuses the invitation by Iraq and by the sincere revolutionary forces to create an Arab nationalist and progressive front and to form an eastern military front to confront Israeli intransigence and to liberate Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding its statement, the Provisional Regional Command of the party called for a general boycott of this regime and its institutions and for more struggle and greater coherence among nationalist and progressive forces to achieve a solid alliance in preparation for the establishment or a progressive and nationalist regime.

GDR'S GUENTHER KLEIBER CONTINUES TALKS IN BAGHDAD

Economic Cooperation Committee

JN051217Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 5 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 February--The meetings of the third session of the Iraqi-GDR permanent committee for economic, trade and technical cooperation began here today. The committee is holding its meetings under the chairmanship of Hasan 'Ali, member of the Revolution Command Council and Iraqi trade minister, and GDR Deputy Prime Minister Guenther Kleiber.

The heads of the two sides expressed their desire for the committee meetings to result in more economic, trade and technical cooperation between the two countries. Today's meeting resulted in the formation of five [as received] committees: the industry and reconstruction committee, the agriculture and agrarian reform committee, the trade committee, and the scientific and technical committee.

Kleiber Continues Talks

LD061935Y East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1629 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Baghdad--Guenther Kleiber, candidate member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, deputy premier and minister for general and agricultural engineering and vehicle construction, had talks on the third day of his official visit to the Republic of Iraq on further deepening political, economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the GDR and Iraq. In Baghdad today he discussed with the member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Revolution Command Council of Iraq, Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah Talfaj, issues of the joint struggle of the two states against imperialism, Zionism and reaction and for a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict.

On the same day Guenther Kleiber had further talks with the minister for industry and minerals, Dr Najih Muhammad Khalil, and the minister for agriculture and agrarian reform, Latil Nasif Jasim.

Agricultural Cooperation Minutes

JN061913Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 6 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 6 February--The minutes of the fourth meeting of the agricultural and irrigation subcommittee stemming from the permanent committee for economic and scientific-technical cooperation between Iraq and the GDR were signed here this evening. On the Iraqi side the minutes were signed by Khalid 'Abd al-Hamid, director general of agricultural cooperation, while (Horst Lieder), director general in the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Foodstuffs, signed theminutes on behalf of the GDR.

The minutes stipulate that the GDR side will implement several agricultural projects and equip a factory for repairing cars [ma'mal li taslih as-sayyarat] which is currently under construction, enabling it to operate with an annual production capacity of 1,200 engines. The minutes also stipulate that the GDR will supply Iraq with 600 repair vehicles [sayyarat taslih].

Following the signing of the minutes, the Iraqi and GDR sides expressed satisfaction with the progress made in bilateral cooperation in agriculture. They noted the necessity of constant cooperation and the expansion of this cooperation in the interests of the two friendly countries.

KING HUSAYN INTERVIEWED BY GERMAN MAGAZINE

JN062144Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Feb 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has stressed the necessity of returning the city of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty. His majesty said that this is a condition which must be fulfilled to achieve peace in the Middle East.

In an interview with the German DER SPIEGEL magazine, his majesty stated that the Palestinians must decided their future by themselves after the withdrawal of Israel from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

His majesty pointed out that one of the proposed solutions calls for the establishment of a federal state having links with Jordan. His majesty added that if Egypt and Israel reach an agreement on a declaration of principles stipulating Israel's commitment to withdraw from the occupied territories and its recognition of Palestinian rights, then it would be possible for the other Arab parties concerned in the Middle East conflict to participate in the negotiations.

His Majesty King Husayn further stated that if the present efforts being exerted in the Middle East do not achieve their aim because of Israeli intransigence, then this would lead to a catastrophe threatening the whole world.

His Majesty King Husayn rejected the presence of Israeli settlements on occupied Arab territories.

PAPER SAYS CAMP DAVID TALKS END HOPE FOR U.S. HELP

JN070812Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Feb 78 pp 1, 13 JN

[Editorial]

[Text] Perhaps the only substantial result of the talks between Presidents Carter and as-Sadat is cutting short the time factor in putting the Arabs face to face before three U.S. no's. These are: No to self-determination for the Palestinians; no to complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory; and no U.S. pressure on Israel. This result of the talks has become clear to all Arabs, both the optimists and the pessimists among them, and to all who had hoped for something from the United States which does not reach the point of complete support for the Arab rights, but which does not maintain traditional support for Israeli intransigence.

The result, which President Carter presented, exceeds all that Israel has received before, namely, the three U.S. no's, which have never before been so clearly and roughly stated. In themselves, these three no's represent extremely grave frustration for all the hopes fostered in the area for a just peace.

The touches added about continuing the U.S. help to reach peace are only lipservice. As the U.S. stand has been defined by "no" to the minimum legitimate Arab rights and as Israel will not be bothered by U.S. pressure to change its stand, no one knows the use of either continuing or stopping this U.S. help. Whether Atherton returns to his shuttles, which he promised the Arabs, will not change this result. Perhaps the only foreseeable result of these shuttles is to waste more time and to take the Arabs into new labyrinths that will further increase their divisions and disintegration.

Washington has faced As-Sadat with what he himself had not expected. Instead of giving support to his initiative, Washington acted in a way that suggests that this initiative has ended, and that U.S. "shuttles" have replaced it.

At the same time, however, Washington unknowingly offered a great service to the Arabs: It has shown its last cards. Thus it has become the task of all Arabs to face this U.S. reality by stressing their determination to restore their usurped rights on the basis that all the cards for a solution to their just cause, not just 99 percent of them, lie in their intrinsic power and not in the U.S. basket, which gave them nothing but three no's.

The stage our issue is passing through--now that As-Sadat's initiative and his talks at Camp David have cut short the time factor at the Israeli and U.S. levels--leaves no room for gloating and malicious joy among the Arabs. It is imperative for all the Arab countries to meet in order to reconsider together their international and particularly their U.S. calculations. It is also imperative for them to build their intrinsic forces, to the utmost of their resources and capabilities.

What has happened suggests that the U.S. administration has become convinced that the Arabs are either not serious or are unable to perform real work to restore their rights. It remains for the Arabs now to make their own way to restore these rights, whatever the sacrifices.

The United States has said no three times to the Arabs. It is time for the Arabs to say by deed and not words: "No, we will never know" and our fate will remain in our own hands.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES SAUDI, UK, SOVIET AMBASSADORS

JN070719Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Feb 78 p 2 JN

[Text] Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mudar Badran received successively in his office yesterday the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. The prime minister discussed with the ambassador the latest developments in the situation and Jordan's relations with their countries.

ELF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ENDS VISIT TO AMMAN

JN061507Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 6 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 6 February--Osman Saleh Sabbe, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF], left Amman this morning following a 1-week visit to Jordan. During the visit, he met with several senior officials and representatives of the popular and Islamic establishments in Jordan and briefed them on current developments in Eritrea and the Horn of Africa.

INTERIOR MINISTER SALAH SALMAN VISITS SIDON

NC061321Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] The question of security in the south, and especially in Sidon, has claimed the attention of officials and politicians following the recent disturbances in the town. Interior Minister Salah Salman today visited Sidon to inspect the security situation there. Here is a recorded dispatch from our correspondent: [begin recording]

Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman will attend five working meetings today at the Sidon government house where he arrived at 1100. He was received by the governor of the south, Halim Fayyad, and senior military and administrative officials of the province. Speeches were exchanged in Governor Fayyad's office, where Governor Fayyad welcomed Minister Salman.

Fayyad stated: We are all well aware of the attention given by the minister and the cabinet and his excellency the president of the republic to the problem of the south, but we all know that this problem, complex and multifaceted as it is, has resulted in continued tragedy and pain. We hope that the minister will address all these matters in his various meetings.

In reply, Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman said:

I am happy to be with you today. I need not repeat what you have heard from all officials in Lebanon, that the south is an important part of our beloved homeland and that we will do the impossible and, of course, everything possible to insure that the people of the south are reassured and enjoy stability. We hope that this will come about soon. Efforts are being made by the government, with the help of the Arab deterrent forces and all sincere people who wish Lebanon to achieve, after 2 or more years of trials, the stability to which we all aspire for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren. The task in the south and elsewhere is difficult. There is no doubt that every official who has sought solutions to our problems is aware of the difficulty of these problems. However, with good will--which everyone is beginning to demonstrate--and with our unshakable faith in this dear homeland and with the continued help of our brothers, we are bound to achieve our objective.

MENA REPORTS GENERAL STRIKE IN AN-NABATIYAH

NC071110Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 7 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] Beirut, 7 February--A general strike was declared and stores remained closed today in An-Nabatiyah, one of the main towns in southern Lebanon.

The strike, which is similar to that staged in the town of Sidon last week, is in protest of violations by some armed persons belonging to various Palestinian organizations.

The strike should have taken place yesterday but was postponed till today because the town was under fire. The strike is also staged for the purpose of having the offices of these organizations closed down and armed persons and armed manifestations removed from the town.

As is known in An-Nabatiyah, like all the other towns in southern Lebanon, there is a lack of security and the town utilities and establishments are under the control of armed men.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD TO VISIT MOSCOW IN MID-FEBRUARY

TA071118Y Paris AFP in English 1021 GMT 7 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Damascus, Feb. 7 (AFP)--Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will go to Moscow about mid-February, a well-informed source said here today. His trip would follow a visit to Moscow by Libyan premier Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, the same source said.

Further Details

NC061658Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 6 February--Informed sources here have stated that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Moscow soon as a spokesman for the anti-As-Sadat front, which concluded its deliberations [in Algiers] on Saturday. The sources expressed the belief that Al-Asad will make the visit after being reelected on Wednesday for another 7-year presidential term. Al-Asad is the only candidate and hence his reelection is a certainty. Meanwhile, informed Syrian sources have stated that no cabinet reshuffle is being contemplated in Syria.

President al-Asad's term of office ends on 11 March. He was elected president in 1971 with a majority of 99.2 percent. He was the only candidate at that time also.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM INTERVIEWED BY BEIRUT JOURNAL

LD061900Y Beirut EVENTS in English 10 Feb 78 pp 20, 21 LD

[Interview granted by Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to EVENTS publisher Salim al-Lawzi--place and date unspecified]

[Text] [Question] Have you heard President as-Sadat's latest speech? He criticized both you and the Soviet Union.

[Answer] Isn't it strange that As-Sadat should praise Arab enemies like 'Ezer Weizman, Moshe Dayan and American leaders and has not a good word for any Arab leader? Isn't it curious that myself and Soviet leaders are singled out for criticism and attack? Frankly, I am sad for President as-Sadat, even sadder for the Egyptian people who have been led away from the Arab fold by As-Sadat's policy.

[Question] After all As-Sadat said about Israel's intransigence, did you expect him to announce that he was carrying on with his peace initiative?

[Answer] To describe As-Sadat's visit to Israel as an initiative is merely an attempt to camouflage the truth. As-Sadat's trip was part of a tripartite scheme: American, Israeli and Egyptian. He was not the one to initiate the visit to Israel and he will not be the one to end negotiations with Israel.

[Question] Is this based on assumption or on information?

[Answer] What is the value of information when compared with established facts? Isma'il as-Sadat's foreign policy architect for 5 years, resigned in protest against As-Sadat's determination to visit Israel. Fahmi said that As-Sadat had told him of this idea 3 months before he carried it out. Is there any stronger proof that the visit was arranged, agreed upon and part of a scheme?

[Question] What is the objective of this tripartite scheme?

[Answer] The American objective is total control of the Arab area as a first step toward control over Africa and a firm grip over Western Europe and Japan. The Israeli objective is to exclude Egypt from the Arab ranks, to eliminate her role as a confrontation state, to create divisions in the Arab world as a prelude to a final liquidation of the Palestine cause.

As for As-Sadat's objective--which is not that of Egypt--it is not to regain Sinai or to achieve victory for the Palestine cause. This is the last thing that worries him. He is dreaming of a role that transcends Egypt and extends into Africa. He is a victim of the 'Abd an-Nasir complex. He wants to be an 'Abd an-Nasir. He believes that through that tripartite alliance he can use the United States to blackmail the rich Arab countries into giving him the largest share of oil revenues. Arab wealth preoccupies As-Sadat more than Sinai or the Palestine cause. Even freezing negotiations with Israel does not worry him. He knows that the scheme already mooted is more important than occupied territories, settlements, the rights of Palestinian people and Begin's ideological fanaticism.

[Question] But Isma'il Fahmi said As-Sadat's decision to visit Israel was haphazard and not preceded by studies or agreements.

[Answer] It may not have been preceded by agreements. The studies were carried out by others. His role was only to implement them. If As-Sadat was only interested in the Arab-Israeli dispute he would not have visited Jerusalem. When he came here to tell us of his decision, President al-Asad asked him: "What do you expect from the Israelis in return for your visit? You will be giving them everything: recognition, legality and an agreement to deal with them. Furthermore, it constitutes an affront to the dignity and pride of the Arab nation. If Israel refuses to give in, in the face of Arab solidarity, will it give anything following your dispute with the Arabs over the visit?"

President al-Asad tried to convince As-Sadat for 7 whole hours. Still he insisted on going ahead with his visit and this strengthened our conviction that it was decided for him: He could do nothing about it. All he did, before and after the visit, was to give it a theatrical dressing to imply that the decision was his alone.

[Question] Whether as-Sadat's visit was an inspiration as he says, or was planned for him, the Arabs cannot in the end break with Egypt. They need Egypt whether in war or in peace.

[Answer] As-Sadat has tried to make the Arabs and non-Arabs believe that he who rules Egypt is the one that counts in the Arab world, the one to decide on war or peace. This is not true, throughout history or in the present day. The most recent example is our struggle against Zionism. In 1948--our losses on the eastern front were far greater than those of Egypt. In 1967, the war was an Egyptian decision, but it did not end in an Arab victory.

The third was in 1973 and what has been published shows that Israeli concentrations were mainly on the Syrian front. The Egyptian ruler issued orders to the Egyptian military command not to carry out the joint plan signed by the presidents of Syria and Egypt but to carry out another one on the Egyptian front. This led to disrupting the balance on the battlefield, and the Egyptian ruler took a unilateral decision to stop fighting.

The second Sinai disengagement agreement nearly exposed the Arab region to destruction. Syria and the Arab people are capable of restoring the balance. The exclusion of the Egyptian front does not mean the collapse of the Arab nation. Our potential in Syria, supported by some Arab potential, is capable of achieving a strategic balance in the area.

[Question] Israel relies on the U.S. arsenal, and at times has obtained sophisticated arms even before the U.S. Army itself; would the Soviet Union do the same for the Arabs.

[Answer] We fought Israel with Soviet weapons, the October war could not have been possible without Soviet assistance, from 1955 the Soviet Union provided Egypt with all the weapons the Egyptian Army could absorb. After the 1967 defeat, they rebuilt the Egyptian Army and made up all its losses. The Soviets built the High Dam, power stations, iron and steel and hundreds of other factories, in addition to land reclamation schemes. Does the ruler of Egypt have any right in claiming the Soviets did not give him help?

I am not trying to defend the Soviet Union but trying to maintain the minimum level of gratitude. This relentless anti-Soviet campaign conducted by the Egyptian ruler will cause many nations to refuse to deal with us. I am sure that those for whom As-Sadat is working today will take notice of what he has done to those who supported him and supplied him with arms and aid. They will discard him after they have made all possible use of him and will not give him a chance to treat them as he did the Soviets.

[Question] There may be three possibilities today: Either the As-Sadat initiative will fail, and some Arab statesmen in such a case will call for a return to Arab solidarity; or the initiative will achieve a settlement acceptable to Egypt and the Arabs; or thirdly, there will be a settlement not acceptable to the Arabs. Which is more likely?

[Answer] The course followed by As-Sadat can never lead to a just and durable peace--unless we consider that there could be a peace that does not restore Arab and Palestinian national rights. We have not for a single moment ignored the nature of Zionist thinking, its true aims and methods. That is what made us stress to As-Sadat the futility of his visit.

[Question] If your estimates are proved correct and the initiative fails, what will be your position regarding As-Sadat?

[Answer] An Arab foreign minister asked me if it would not be better to forgive and forget. As-Sadat must pay the price of the sin he committed against the Arab nation. He boasts that he has destroyed the psychological barrier between the Arabs and Israel. But he cannot see that he has opened the door to Zionist interests and ambitions in the Arab world. If, for the sake of argument, we assume that As-Sadat has visited Israel on his own initiative and not as part of an alien scheme, he still must pay the price of his gamble. Nixon resigned for a single lie which turned into the Watergate scandal. What about the one who tried to massacre Arab aspirations?

[Question] If Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Arab countries call for a summit. [sentence as published]

[Answer] Of course, any talk of any summit in which As-Sadat participates is unacceptable because we refuse to allow the Arab nation to be used to cover up a sinister conspiracy aimed at their rights, dignity and pride. We support Arab solidarity--but inasmuch as it opposes Israeli ambitions. Arab solidarity should be aimed not only against Israel but those who deal with Israel. There is no place among honourable men for the one who visited occupied Jerusalem, destroyed the barrier between Cairo and Tel Aviv, damaged Arab solidarity and Arab dignity and turned himself into a small tool of an elaborate international conspiracy.

[Question] Then you will refuse to attend any summit in which As-Sadat participates?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] And if As-Sadat achieves a settlement?

[Answer] What is happening now between As-Sadat and Begin is not a settlement but a conspiracy. As-Sadat agreed to the continuation of Israeli sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza, and agreed to calling them Judaea and Samaria. He also recently said that he accepts autonomous rule, which means an admission of continued Israeli sovereignty. As-Sadat also agrees to the settlements, and what is happening now is merely theatrical.

Peaceful relations have already begun in fact. During his last speech to the Egyptian People's Assembly, an Israeli press delegation was present. Before that, Egyptian journalists were in the Knesset when Begin declared that Israel did not need an acknowledgement of its existence from Egypt. All that is taking place is but an attempt to bypass the stern rejection of the Egyptian-Israeli-American scheme and which enables some Arab voices to call for support of the Egyptian president in his battle against Israel.

[Question] King Husayn calling for support for As-Sadat?

[Answer] The Jordanian position is vague and we do not believe it serves Arab or Jordanian interests.

[Question] Would your opposing position lead to canceling the existing agreements with Jordan?

[Answer] We have not reached such a stage and hope we can contain our differences.

[Question] Will the Algeria summit conference bean alternative to a summit which you refuse to attend with As-Sadat?

[Answer] We are not considering now a summit of the steadfast countries. What we are considering is a meeting of some of the Syrian and Iraqi leaderships in Algiers.

[Question] Then Algerian President Boumediene's visit to Moscow was not successful?

[Answer] On the contrary, it was very successful, the same as his tour of some Arab countries.

[Question] It was reported that Boumediene was seeking to convince the Soviets to withdraw their recognition of Resolution 242 as the government of Baghdad insists.

[Answer] The question is not Resolution 242 or any other but a policy adopted by the Egyptian president which rendered great services to Israel and which must be opposed.

[Question] Is it true that the Soviet Union has told Boumediene that there will be an unprecedented Soviet response to any Israeli attack against Syria or southern Lebanon and that they promised all the necessary arms?

[Answer] As far as arms are concerned, the Soviets are responding. As for the Soviet warning, we did not receive anything officially although we know they will stand firmly on our side.

LIBYA

RECONCILIATION BETWEEN CHAD, REVOLUTIONARIES HAILED

LD071030Y Tripoli JANA in English 0930 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 7, JANA--The Foreign Secretariat of the Jamahiriyah would like to express its satisfaction and welcome for the news report which said that an agreement was signed between the Supreme Military Council in Chad and Chadian revolutionaries headed by (?Hussayn Hebre) according to the news reports.

The agreement was signed Khartoum on January 22, 1978 and announced on February 5.

The statement of the Foreign Secretariat said that the reconciliation between all fighting parties in Chad is an aim which the Jamahiriyah is looking forward to and consequently the Jamahiriyah blesses any efforts towards his direction and wishes it all success.

SUDANESE VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI

LD062032Y Tripoli JANA in English 1845 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 6, JANA--First Deputy President of Sudan Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim arrived here today for a several day visit to the Jamahiriyah.

He was accompanied by the Sudanese minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Francis Deng, Major General 'Umar Mohammad Tayyab of the general command and Abu Bakr 'Usman, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry. They were received at the airport by Staff Major 'Abd As-Salam Jallud, a number of secretaries and other officials.

MAJOR JALLUD RETURNS FROM ALGIERS SUMMIT

LD061104Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 6 February--Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud returned home yesterday evening after attending the second summit conference of steadfastness and confrontation. He was welcomed at Tripoli International Airport by Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, and Dr Ahmad ash-Sharif, secretary for education.

Muhammad az-Zuwayy, secretary for information and culture, and Musa Ahmad Abu Furaywah, secretary for planning, also returned on the same aircraft.

PDRY MINISTER ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI FOR VISIT

LD071150Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 7 February--Brother Salih Mut'i, member of the Political Bureau and PDRY interior minister, [name and title as received] arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening. He was welcomed at Tripoli International Airport by the brother interior secretary.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN INTERVIEWED BY BEIRUT JOURNAL

LD061820Y Beirut EVENTS in English 10 Feb 78 pp 28-30 LD

[Interview granted by King Hassan II to EVENTS correspondent Jalal Kishk--date and place unspecified]

[Text] [Question] Why should Morocco, with its own problems in the Sahara, align itself with the Egyptians, when even As-Sadat's closest friends were keeping quiet, and complaining behind the scenes that they had not been consulted? Why support someone when he has not asked for your advice? When I asked King Hassan about this, he replied:

[Answer] "We were very surprised by the initiative, since As-Sadat had said nothing about it, because he did not want to embarrass us. He wanted to carry the weight of this decision by himself, so should everything turn out right--well and good, but if other factors were to become involved, he would take the responsibility himself."

[Question] It was clear from the outset that your appraisal of the mission was very different from the frenzied debate which both the rejectionists and As-Sadat's supporters were holding. You have said that the Arabs must not leave As-Sadat in the area by himself. Does this mean that Your Majesty considers these discussions as just one more way of continuing the struggle against Israel?

[Answer] When we talk about getting back the occupied territories and the rights of the Palestinians--and I hope this point is clear--we mean Jerusalem as well. To achieve this goal we must fight, and the fight can take on any number of different forms, which change with differing circumstances, but the goal must stay the same. If retrieving our rights means going on with the negotiations, then we must continue with them, to save unnecessary bloodshed and resources. People whose rights are abused do not want to fight, but are forced to because they must oppose injustice.

Personally, I think the initiative, and everything that was said about it, is now past history; and that since the dialogue between Egypt and Israel has been interrupted, we have entered a new phase. I really do hope that this is an opportunity for the Arabs to close their ranks and get behind Egypt. The clout this would give us would transcend anything that happened in the past, giving President as-Sadat the support and solidarity to put pressure on our friends, as well as those forces opposed to any Arab consensus--and ultimately on the enemy himself. Then, for the first time, the situation would be absolutely clear cut with no blurred edges. Either Israel wants peace and comes out and says so, or it chooses war, in which case Israel or anyone else it might concern should start thinking about how to stop it.

[Question] Has President as-Sadat gone back on the decisions of the Rabat summit?

[Answer] I don't think for one minute that President as-Sadat can ignore the Rabat decisions without telling us that he means to do so and this is why I supported him right from the start. Since then events have proved me right. As I said to the Arab justice minister, As-Sadat made his speech to the Israeli parliament: Did he neglect the rights of the Palestinians or give up an inch of territory? Has he said he would make a separate agreement? We would have said exactly the same in Geneva or New York, so why disagree with it in Jerusalem?

The state the negotiations are in at the moment proves that he is not ignoring one paragraph of the Rabat resolutions. In fact you could say that if As-Sadat wanted to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and sign a separate peace, he would have got what he wanted when the discussions stopped. But what happened was that the discussions got bogged down over the Palestinian issue. Because the question of Palestinian rights concerns all Arabs and not just Egypt, I think that every Arab who is honest with himself and is prepared to fight for the rights of the Palestinians should make the same choice.

I also believe that the only solution to the problems will be through dedicated effort, particularly among those immediately involved in the conflict. We now have an opportunity to forget what has happened during the last month and to get things going again, to look to the future and not the past. I hope that President al-Asad, King Husayn and Abu Ammar will use this opportunity to get together with As-Sadat to fight for the Palestinian rights.

[Question] What about the settlements?

[Answer] Everything the papers say about Sharm ash-Shaykh, the settlements and the airports being the stumbling block in the talks is wrong. My sources tell me that the real issue is the Palestinians.

[Question] In Your Majesty's speech to the council of justice ministers you said that Morocco would not hesitate to shed more blood if the circumstances required it. Do you see a breakdown? Will we have to resort to war?

[Answer] Just because we are prepared to discuss the problem with the Israelis, it does not mean we will surrender our rights. The whole purpose of negotiations is to convince and be convinced. In this instance the Arab faction did not need convincing, because it was our land which was being occupied, and our rights which were being ignored. We are the injured party and all we can do is to try to convince the enemy of the validity of our case. If that fails, what alternative do we have? We must retrieve our rights by any means possible, even to the extent of resorting to arms and initiating the attack, because we are in the right.

We will not be indulging in aggression or land grabbing, since it is our rights and our land which we are trying to get back and that is a legitimate cause by any reckoning. Morocco hopes with all its heart that there will not be another Arab-Israeli war because the problems this would cause for the Middle East and the world as a whole would be quite catastrophic and, considering the energy question and the conflict of interests in the area, would almost certainly lead to the intervention of the superpowers. I hope that we don't take the road to war, but if we do I can tell everyone that as usual Morocco will be up with the leaders, fulfilling its obligations as an Arab state.

[Question] Do you think we need a summit meeting?

[Answer] I think a summit would be premature. Much better would be to get the confrontation states to meet with the PLO, but as time is short we must not waste it, and should they reach a quick agreement on a comprehensive summit there is nothing to stop it.

[Question] You have met a number of Jewish personalities and it has been said that you prepared the ground for the As-Sadat initiative?

[Answer] No. These people have left politics before and came simply as private individuals. Of course we mentioned the Arab-Israeli conflict, but only to explain some point in my own thinking or during an exchange of views. You could not possibly say that these talks were in preparation for As-Sadat's visit. I cancelled my trip to America because of what was written about Morocco's role in the As-Sadat initiative, to leave no shadow of doubt about this question, and make sure that As-Sadat alone got the real credit. My visit to the United States would have coincided with his trip to Jerusalem. Had I gone, some people would have seen it as a confirmation of everything that had been written or said and that was not true. President Carter had no problem understanding the situation, for which I thank him. God willing, we will meet soon.

[Question] Do you think that President as-Sadat should resign, as some papers say, including Moroccan ones? (The Moroccan party paper AL SAHAFA AL MAGHRIBIYYA AL HIZBIYYA takes a different stand to the government on As-Sadat's initiative.)

[Answer] No. Why resign? Should we all demand his resignation if he gets an agreement which the Egyptian parliament refuses to ratify? Or if the state of his country forced him into a binding written agreement which included relations with Israel and the Egyptian public or the Arab states rejected it--should he resign then? It is absurd to entertain such thoughts.

[Question] You have talked about the fruitful cooperation between Arabs and Jews in the past, but that was under the auspices of a tolerant Arab-Islamic civilisation which gave the Jewish genius ample scope to flourish. Do you think it is possible to repeat that experiment in the light of the Jews' present racist philosophy?

[Answer] Racism is a characteristic of Zionism but I would not apply this description to Jews in general. Not all the 16 million Jews scattered around the world are Zionists and they have their own doubts about it. I spoke about the combined genius of the Arabs and the Jews--not the Arabs and the Israelis--the Arabs and the Jews lived together for a thousand years. When the Prophet Mohammed came with the teachings of Islam he laid down the basis for this coexistence by granting those Jews living in the Arab world certain rights. The first four caliphs, the Umayyads, the Abbasids and all the other Islamic states which followed guaranteed those rights.

Here in the Maghreb they have had the advantage of the universally recognized system which laid down the principles of coexistence from the time of the Idrisids up to the Alawites, where the king was the guardian of these rights and had the job of making them known and obeyed. So if they managed to live together without bigotry then, why can't we repeat the experiment now? The doctrines of our religion and the values of our civilisation oblige us to act as apostles of coexistence and enemies of racism.

[Question] A number of observers have reported that the predicament Israel and her supporters find themselves in has forced them to look for some way of starting another front which would draw off the Arabs' energy and add to their disarray. They have pointed to North Africa as one field for the expected confrontation, particularly after the recent incident of the kidnapping of the Moroccan truck drivers.

[Answer] Generally speaking I don't think the Israelis have a plan of this sort. Any schemers would find two facts--that Morocco is the victim of aggression--because we do not launch attacks on people; and if crimes are committed, it is not we who are the perpetrators; and it is the others who create tensions and give anyone who wants it the opportunity to knock the Arabs. Personally I think the sort of manoeuvre you speak of is extremely improbable.

[Question] Do you think the same applies to Tunis?

[Answer] The last government shake-up included a number of ministries and a number of ministers I know personally. Several states sent missions to Tunis to find out what was going on and to discover the reasons behind the crisis. Morocco did not send anyone because we see it as an internal affair. I take it that the Makkah family and President Bourguiba are wise enough to deal with the situation without any help.

I always used to say to Bourguiba, as advice from a younger to an older man, that having a single party is fine during the period when you are fighting to liberate your country. You don't get caught up in a war of words when you should be fighting the enemy. But after independence, the single party or government poses a threat because its own problems are, by definition, the problems of the state...and the party's ailments will be reflected in the state itself. My advice was always to allow a proliferation of parties and unions.

While this is the root of the problem, there is also the Libyan-Algerian conflict to consider. Both want to make the most of the troubles--and the rivalry between them is an old one. I'm afraid this rivalry may take a new form, in which Tunisia could be the victim.

[Question] But they agree at the moment...

[Answer] This is a temporary, tactical alliance. Al-Qadhdhafi will never forget the words Boumediene used to describe him and how he stopped the union between Libya and Tunisia. Both of them have their own plans and ideas and their own systems.

[Question] Boumediene promised you that you would not find one Algerian soldier in the Western Sahara. Does this still hold good?

[Answer] Decorum prevents me from using the appropriate words. But I can say that what has happened and continues to happen until now is, in your words not mine, incompatible with President Boumediene's obligations.

[Question] Morocco and Mauritania both agree to attend the Libreville conference in Gabon to explain the developments in the area. Isn't it strange that when we cannot agree to support self-determination for the Somalis and the Eritreans, who are both, after all, Arab Moslem people, we ask an African state to intervene in our affairs to save the Arabs from themselves?

[Answer] We see Israeli planes, whose fuel, supplies and equipment are being paid for by an Arab state, attacking Arab Moslems in Africa because of someone's ambition. All I can say is that this is a step in the wrong direction.

[Question] Why are you intervening in Zaire?

[Answer] Quite simply because of African unity. There is nothing to stop an African state helping another independent state, if its legitimate government so wishes. From another angle, if you look at a map of Africa you will find that the Sudan and Zaire cut right across the breadth of the continent. Had Zaire succeeded in isolating Sudan among hostile neighbours we would have been intervening in a situation involving African, Islamic and Arab interests, since the Sudan has Egypt and Saudi Arabia as neighbours.

[Question] Why did you not go ahead with union with Mauritania after you had settled your differences and established friendly relations?

[Answer] Our relations with Mauritania are extremely close. We have economic and military agreements as well as a joint defense treaty. We have always honoured our obligations in this respect and we will continue to do so in the future.

[Question] What about the east, particularly in the light of the Soviet-Algerian statement which talked about the right to self-determination in solving the North African dispute?

[Answer] This does not particularly concern us because we know that the Soviets are prisoners of their own political vocabularly. Our Soviet comrades cannot say some things, while they have to say others at every opportunity: for example, "self-determination", which is the Russians' equivalent of the Basmallah for Moslems. But we are, of course, committed to self-determination for the Palestinians, and would not let these formulas change our policies. In fact our relations with the Soviet Union are good. We are just about to sign a phosphates agreement which has been described as the deal of the century.

[Question] During the October war, Morocco was the only state to fight on both fronts simultaneously. After hostilities had ceased, the Moroccan Army left its equipment and weapons as a gift for the Syrian and Egyptian armies. Have the Arabs given you any compensation?

[Answer] That is a good question because I would like to clear up a point in connection with Morocco's rearmament programme. Some people think it is directed at the Sahara issue which is not true. Ever since 1973 we have been aiming to replace the weapons which we left to our brothers on the firing lines on the Golan Heights and Suez. Because of this and because of developments in arms technology, we thought we should re-equip our armed forces, beginning in 1973. I want to make this point absolutely clear so that no one says we are rearming because of what is happening in the Sahara.

As for compensation, this was discussed at the Rabat summit and we all reached a decision as far as Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the PLO were concerned. Then, Saddam Husayn said: "The Moroccans fought and made sacrifices as well, so what about compensation for them?" Here I interrupted him saying: "Don't discuss the matter further. Some states have already thanked us by giving us their support." But no final decision was made.

SUDAN

BAKR RECEIVES LETTER TO NUMAYRI FROM CHADIAN PRESIDENT

LD062040Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Mr ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president of the republic and foreign minister, received at 1000 this morning the Chadian ambassador in Khartoum and received from him a message from the president of Chad to the leader-president, Jafar Muhammad Numayri.

Mr ar-Rashid at-Tahir said that the Chadian ambassador during the meeting had praised the leader-president's initiative to insure national unity in Chad. The ambassador stressed that the Chadian people would always remember with appreciation and gratitude President Numayri's good efforts on behalf of the people of Chad.

Mr ar-Rashid at-Takir Bakr emphasized Sudan's [word indistinct] and the fulfillment of its national and pannational obligations toward all its brothers in the region because it believed that the region could not proceed along the course of progress and prosperity (?in fulfillment) of the aspirations of its peoples except through national unity and political stability.

He pointed out that Sudan with all it possessed [words indistinct] would be disturbed if the fraternal neighbor were subjected to the burden of the problems raised by those powers with designs on our continent and region.

Mr Rashid at-Tahir went on to say: Accordingly we see the keenness of the leader-president to offer everything possible that the Sudan can offer to the Republic of Chad and its friendly people [words indistinct]. The foreign minister expressed his happiness that the efforts of Sudan had been crowned with success and that national unity for Chad had been realized. This national unity would have far-reaching effects for the future of Chad.

TUNISIA

PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA REPORTED 'VERY ILL'

LD061938Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi returned to Tripoli this evening after attending the Algiers conference of the steadfast and confrontation states. "During a stopover today in Tunis he was welcomed by Hedi Nouira, the prime minister. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi was unable to see President Habib Bourguiba because he is very ill."

Meeting Postponed

LD061939Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The meeting of the judicial higher council, which was scheduled to take place tomorrow under the chairmanship of President Bourguiba, has been postponed for a week.

DAYAN CONFIRMS ISRAELI ARMS SALES TO ETHIOPIA

TA061805Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Feb 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] To conclude, here is a report which is, in fact, this evening's headline: Israel is selling arms to Ethiopia.

This evening Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan confirmed this to our envoy in Zurich, Mikha Limor. Mr Dayan repeated this in an interview with Swiss television, an interview which will be broadcast on Thursday. Right now the foreign minister is consulting with Israel's ambassadors in Western Europe and from there, from Zurich, here is Mikha Limor broadcasting:

[Limor] Less than an hour after my talk with the foreign minister about the arms Israel is selling to Ethiopia, Mr Dayan repeated all this to Swiss television. [begin recording]

[Dayan--in English] We are selling some arms to Ethiopia. We, for years and years, had cooperation with Ethiopia, never with Somalia. We want to maintain a good relationship with Ethiopia. [end recording]

[Limor] Yes, Mr Dayan said, we are selling arms to Ethiopia--not planes, not even Israeli soldiers, but we are selling them certain types of arms. We were friends with Ethiopia for years and not with Somalia, and so, when the Ethiopians were attacked, we armed them. The fact that we are together with the Soviets in this matter is another question.

After the foreign minister had repeated this to the foreign television as well, I commented that this was the first time that Israel had publicly confirmed its intervention in Ethiopia. Mr Dayan replied that, in his view, there was no need to do what was being done in Ethiopia in secret. He added that we did indeed want the friendship of the Ethiopians, also because of Ethiopia's control over the waterways through which tankers carrying oil to Israel pass. We want, said Mr Dayan, to maintain friendly relations with those controlling the shores of the Red Sea.

At the moment the foreign minister is meeting, as was said, with Israel's ambassadors in Europe. Our little consulate in Zurich is full to overflowing. There are ambassadors who let me hear criticism of the urgent directives the foreign minister is initiating in Europe. Less than a month ago there was a planning meeting in Rome. The minister's aide, Eli Rubinstein, explained to me that the previous directive had been issued before the severance of the talks with Egypt and there were new aspects. Apart from that, economic matters also had to be dealt with. The affairs of the high duty tax on oranges, for example, as distinct from the affairs of the poisoned oranges, is now bothering the foreign office, according to the minister's aide. And from Zurich, here is Mikha Limor.

Comments on Egypt's Stand

TA 062017Y Paris AFP in English 1943 GMT 6 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Zurich, Feb 6 (AFP)--Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said here today he doubted that Egypt sought to conclude a separate peace agreement with Israel.

"Maybe," he said in a statement on Swiss television, "what they are after is really making another state, as least Jordan, joining the negotiations and, and not to be accused by the other Arab countries that they are making a deal alone with Israel.

"If we discuss the bilateral questions, as Sinai, boundaries, settlements, demilitarised zones, maybe we can reach an agreement. Also if we have to discuss the general problem of Palestinians we can reach an agreement.

"But I have the feeling that the Egyptians are very reluctant about a separate agreement between us and Egypt. I really think they do not want an agreement."

Jerusalem Sources 'Stunned'

TA070710Y Jerusalem POST in English 7 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Anan Safadi, POST Mideast affairs editor]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan yesterday admitted that Israel has been selling arms to Ethiopia with the aim of bolstering that country's fighting capability against neighbouring Somalia, a member of the Arab League. Dayan made the statement to Swiss television in Zurich, where the foreign minister stopped for a meeting with Israel ambassadors in Europe on his way to the U.S.

There was no need to hide the fact that Israel was selling arms to Ethiopia, Dayan said. But he denied that Israeli troops were there.

Observers in Jerusalem last night conceded that they were stunned by the fact that Dayan should have made the disclosure in view of the political implications involved. The clear inference is that the Israel-Arab conflict has extended to the strategic African Horn, which dominates the southern access to Israel's Red Sea outlet.

Speaking of Israel's purpose in taking sides in the war of the Horn of Africa, these observers stressed Dayan's remark that Jerusalem had a clear interest in maintaining its long-standing friendly relations with Ethiopia for two main reasons: That country's continued cooperation with Israel at a time when most African countries severed ties with Jerusalem, and its strategic position along the vital Red Sea link to Israel's southern post of Elat.

The observers said that Israel was also taking into consideration the interests of another friendly neighbouring country--Kenya--which fears that should Somalia entrench its occupation of southern Ethiopia it would make territorial claims on the northern frontier district of Kenya.

Israel's main concern was said to be getting the Ethiopians to contend first with the rebellion of secessionists in the northern region of Eritrea, where guerrillas have been holding the main road between the provincial capital of Asmara and the Red Sea port of Massawa--in which Israel was reported to be "interested."

Observers believe that unless Ethiopia first succeeds in suppressing the Eritrean rebellion, it will not be able to score a decisive victory against Somalia.

Ironically, Israel is now seen to be supporting Ethiopia's ruling Dergue alongside the Soviets and the Cubans and--of all the Arabs--the radical Libyans and Southern Yemenis. The Somalis as well as the Eritrean rebels are supported by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the Sudan and Iran.

Dayan yesterday said that "the fact we are on the same side as the Soviets on this matter, well, that's a different question."

One observer said that Israel was interested less in the Soviet angle than in completing with the radicals over an alliance with Addis Ababa.

Israel's involvement in Ethiopia has been significantly coupled with that of Iran in Somalia. Leading the recent burst of support for the Somalis was the shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who along with Saudi Arabia has been crusading to uproot Soviet-supported radicalism round the Red Sea and the gulf region.

The question raised by Israel's move is whether it was a plunge into a conflict with Iran over Arab-Islamic expansionism or whether the two countries have some agreement to operate on both sides of the fence in fighting radicalism.

BEGIN: VANCE STIFFENED CARTER POSITION TOWARD AS-SADAT

TA070845Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Tadmor]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said yesterday at a closed meeting that Secretary of State Vance and the other members of the U.S. delegation which participated in the deliberations of the Political Committee had stiffened President Carter's position and prevented him from making real concessions to Ac-Sadat.

In this regard Begin related what Secretary of State Vance had told him after having been shocked to learn that the Egyptian delegation had been instructed to return to Cairo. At the end of a tense day, Vance had arrived at a draft of an agreement of principles with the exception of one clause, and had submitted the troublesome clause to Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamil. When he learned of the recall of the Egyptian delegation, he felt offended and informed the Israelis and the Egyptian foreign minister of this. A few minutes later he reported to President Carter about this and the latter was also stunned.

Begin is convinced that the personal impressions of Vance, who was personally involved in the talks, and of his aides, who followed the developments closely, hardened Carter's positions and prevented an erosion between Israel and Egypt concerning the continuation of the talks on disputed issues.

Denies Pressuring U.S. Jews

TA061535Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has said that there is no basis for the report that the cabinet intervened in the considerations [shigulim] of the leaders of U.S. Jewry on the matter of holding a meeting with President as-Sadat.

Mr Begin explained this in a talk with the chairman of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres, on the eve of Mr Peres' departure for Europe. In the talk political issues were mentioned. The chairman of the Labor Party stressed that it was important that the Jewish leaders in the United States should have freedom to hold contacts with the leaders of Egypt.

PERES COMMENTS ON MEETING WITH BEGIN, TRIP TO EUROPE

TA0617Z4Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 6 Feb 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] I am concerned about the chances for the negotiations. We will need a great deal of wisdom and even luck in order to succeed in them.

This was said today by the chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, after his meeting with Prime Minister Menahem Begin. MK Peres, who left today for Europe on a mission for the Labor Party, said that he had not been asked by the prime minister to take official messages to the prime ministers of Germany and Austria and the heads of other socialist countries with whom he will meet during his visit, but he will bring to their knowledge the positions of the cabinet of Israel, as they were reported to him. Our correspondent in the Knesset, Moshe Hakohen, asked MK Peres how he evaluates the political situation after his meeting with the prime minister: [begin recording]

[Peres] I cannot comment on the prime minister's remarks. One of the conditions of these meetings is, of course, that the matters be kept completely secret. For myself, I am happy that the negotiations are continuing, although it will be through the shuttle [dilug] method. As Mr Atherton has already announced, he will shuttle between Cairo and Jerusalem. I am also happy that there is a chance for the renewal of the Military Committee, since, after all, it is impossible to reach peace without negotiations about peace. I have my doubts as to whether the Political Committee will be renewed, because there were apparently difficulties in holding it.

[Question] And those difficulties, are they still in existence and strong, in spite of the reports?

[Answer] Those difficulties are not made in Israel, they are made in Egypt. They are Egyptian difficulties, unless As-Sadat changes his opinion. It appears to me that they exist for him. We have no difficulties in holding the continuation of the deliberations in Jerusalem itself.

[Question] About your trip today, there have been rumors and reports that you are going to meet with President as-Sadat with the mediation of Chancellor Kreisky. Is there any truth to these reports?

[Answer] I know nothing about this. I am, in fact, going for 5 days and to three places. I was invited by the party in Germany, and by Mr Brandt and Mr Schmidt, to go to Bonn for talks. I will spend 2 days in talks in Bonn and after those 2 days of talks in Bonn I will go to Hamburg, where there is a meeting of the [Socialist] Internationale bureau, where most of the parties' leaders will be present, some of whom are also prime ministers. There I will be able to meet again with very many friends and acquaintances from all the European countries. Afterward, I am going to Vienna for 2 days, where the main objective is an informal meeting of leaders of the parties in Europe who will want to discuss the Middle East, and I will open the topic. [end recording]

At today's meeting between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and MK Peres, the procedures for the coming meetings between them were agreed upon, and this is in accordance with the prime minister's promise to bring the head of the opposition up to date frequently through regular reports. And so a long period of time comes to an end, during which the prime minister did not report to the head of the opposition as he had promised, after, according to Mr Begin, MK Peres had leaked details of a meeting the two of them held at the end of last year.

YADIN VIEWS SETTLEMENT AT SHILO, OTHER TOPICS

TA061318Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 6 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Deputy Premier Yadin has come out against the establishment of a settlement at Shilo between Ramallah and Nabulus. Yadin was speaking at a Jerusalem news conference summing up the DMC's first 100 days in the cabinet. David Essing reports: [begin recording]

[Essing] Yiga'el Yadin made it clear that the DMC will fight any attempt to convert Shilo into a settlement.

[Yadin] There is no government decision to create a settlement there. If there were I wouldn't have hesitated, as according to the coalition agreement we have, to ask to defer a decision concerning that to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the parliament. I would have done this as I did in the previous case of the three settlements.

[Essing] And what does Yadin, one of Israel's leading archeologists, think about starting an excavation at Shilo?

[Yadin] Any archeologist in Israel has a problem of embarras de richesse. There are so many places to dig and every one according to his inclination really chooses the site--Shilo--and there are many other sites which are quite interesting to dig. There is no doubt. Whether I would have gone there or not, that's another story. I have my own preferences.

[Essing] In the government Yadin heads the Ministerial Committee on Social Development and today spoke of a new social deal. The aim is to work out a coordinated policy to solve the country's problems at home. One key program is slum clearance. Yadin says some 250,000 Israelis now live in substandard flats. World Jewry would be asked to chip in to cover the forecast cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. Yadin also talked of a streamlined state pension plan to encourage employee mobility.

Yadin also has ideas for a more efficient system of keeping track of individuals' income and a plan for staggered working hours to prevent traffic jams.

The DMC has recently come under fire from its coalition partners for supporting an opposition bill on a religious issue--religious girls' military service. Yadin says the DMC stands firm.

[Yadin] In the DMC every member has the right to vote on matters of religious status quo according to his conscience; no one can dictate to him. And it so happened that last week everybody voted the way he wanted and the bill was--well, an amendment was passed to the committee. I mean, this is not a matter of negotiations; this is a part of the agreement, and I think that it was a bit blown up.

[Essing] Some party supporters criticize the DMC for playing a back seat role in the coalition. Yadin rejects the criticism. He says anyone who expected his 15 member party to revolutionize the government in only 3 months was unrealistic. [end recording]

Repeats Land Swap Proposal

TA070716Y Jerusalem POST in English 7 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By POST diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Deputy Premier Yiga'el Yadin repeated once again yesterday his "personal opinion" in favour of a territorial swap with Egypt. Yadin told a meeting of the Jerusalem Press Club that, if Egypt made such a proposal, "I personally would support it."

Yadin has made the same point publicly at least twice in the past 10 days, and some observers see his remarks as a deliberate signal to Egypt. What he has in mind is an exchange of a piece of the Negev for the Rafah salient, where Israel has a number of settlements and an important airfield.

Yadin said he was among those who "consider the security aspect of the Rafah settlements to be important." At the same time, he could readily appreciate the problems and difficulties inherent in the government's official proposal for the return of the whole of Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty with the settlements remaining where they are and the settlers living under that sovereignty. Asked specifically why he himself was not proposing a territorial swap, Yadin replied carefully: "I am not saying whether or not I am proposing it."

He added his "wonderment" that the two Likud MK's (Ge'ula Kohen and Moshe Shamir) who had opposed the government's entire peace plan were the most vociferous in criticizing his exchange proposal (which is in the nature of an amendment to the overall plan).

FINANCE MINISTER EHRLICH VISITS SOUTH AFRICA

For reportage on the visit of Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich to South Africa, see the 6 February and subsequent issues of the Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT.

PAPERS COMMENT ON AS-SADAT'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON

3 Feb AL-FAJR

JN040848Y Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 3 Feb 78 p 3 JN

["AL-FAJR opinion": "The Pilgrimage to Washington and the Procession Around the White House Will Be Useless"]

[Text] Up to this moment the main features of the Middle East political map have not changed despite the gambling initiative made by the Egyptian president, despite all the meetings convened between Egypt and Israel at summit level or in ministerial and technical committees, and despite the driving force supplied by the United States through its President, its secretary of state, and his assistants and advisers. Despite all this, the two sides have failed to reach agreement on the so-called declaration of principles.

As to the reasons, these have become quite well-known and their reiteration has become boring and nerve-racking. Moreover, the insistence of the two sides on killing time by means of Byzantine arguments concerning matters considered by both to be incontrovertible axioms raises 1,001 questions. In other words, what is the meaning of continuing the dialog which is devoid of any substance when Egypt stresses day and night that Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination are two points concerning which there can be no concession, while Israel emphasizes that these two points are impossible?

What is the meaning of the Egyptian complaint to the Zionist pressure groups in the United States? What is the meaning of the frenzied Egyptian move on all levels and directions except the correct and acceptable one? We mean by the correct and acceptable direction the abandonment of the policy of political gambles and adventurous initiatives and true devotion to building up a genuine Arab solidarity resting on firm foundations and clear and specific ideas. What is the meaning of Egypt's turning a blind eye to this only correct and possible road? What is the meaning of Egypt's groveling at the feet of Washington, which has never been anything but the vanguard enemy of peoples and their national aspirations to political and social independence?

Many of those who believe in miracles have given head to their imagination and wished the plane of the Egyptian president would lose its way and land in Algiers airport so that he might join the conference of steadfastness instead of going to Washington. But anyone who has been following As-Sadat's course since his assumption of power knows very well that this will not happen because the future of nations is decided not by miracles but by the invincible will of peoples, the will which repudiates all capitulationists headed by the Egyptian president, to whom it says: No, Mr President, your pilgrimage to Washington and your procession around the White House will be useless.

5 Feb Morning Press

NC050937Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Feb 78 NC

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] HA'AREZ believes that the gripping question is how President Carter will react to President as-Sadat's requests. It is not to be assumed that the U.S. President will grant his guest all that the Cairo newspapers are demanding. On the other hand, it is no less reasonable to believe that Mr Carter and his closest advisers are interested in strengthening the Egyptian president's status in the Arab world, and this cannot be achieved by unreserved support for the Israeli attitude.

HAZOFE believes that it should not be discounted that when As-Sadat returns to Egypt he will announce the cessation of the talks because of alleged Israeli intransigence. Therefore, there is need to quickly explain the Israeli attitude to public opinion in the United States and Western Europe. Officials going to the West on information missions will certainly make every effort to prove that Israel has indicated its desire for peace and for secure borders and that this is inherent in its own proposals, which include far-reaching concessions. However, As-Sadat believes that in return for his visit to Jerusalem Israel should make concessions regarding its security and well-being.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that the Israeli policy will not emerge from its low state if the provocative acts concerning the settlements beyond the green line are not stopped immediately and if Israel does not introduce a reasonable plan concerning the Palestinian issue. This plan should be kept apart from the autonomy plan, which the Arabs consider to be a continuation of Israeli domination in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip and an impediment to King Husayn and the Palestinian elements who aspire to peace. Instead of yielding to irresponsible elements who are pushing Israel toward isolation and jeopardizing the settlement efforts, the government must urgently take the reins in its hands and direct the nation toward the outlet for peace.

Afternoon Editorials

NC051033Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Feb 78 NC

[Review of afternoon press editorials]

[Text] YEDI'OT AHARONOT says that if signs are not misleading, As-Sadat's trip to the United States and Europe is the last phase of his peace comedy, in the paper's words, before its disappearance from the scene. We should recall, the paper adds, that the chief of staff was the only one who appropriately assessed President as-Sadat's aims when he came to Lidda [Ben-Gurion Airport]. Even if the cessation of talks does not mean war, it is our duty to close ranks and if possible to enlarge the cabinet as well.

MA'ARIV says that on his trip As-Sadat has set three goals: to recruit strong international pressure on Israel, to strengthen Egypt's Army with the best Western weapons and to coordinate a common strategy with the West on the war in the Horn of Africa. The paper adds that the United States has played a decisive role in the advancement of peace, and it can continue to do so if it succeeds in explaining to As-Sadat that negotiations do not mean diktat and that a fair compromise does not mean a one-sided concession.

HA'AREZ Cites 'Cautious Satisfaction'

TA070847Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 7 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By HA'AREZ political correspondent]

[Text] Authoritative government sources in Jerusalem yesterday advised against jumping to conclusions about the results of As-Sadat's visit to the United States, even though there was cautious satisfaction with President Carter's position.

Jerusalem is still waiting for authoritative information on the Carter-As-Sadat talks and, for this reason, hard and fast assessments are being avoided. At the same time, the initial impression is that the administration has remained loyal to its decision to play the role of a neutral broker in the negotiations between Israel and Egypt and accordingly avoided responding to As-Sadat's expectations. Since it is assumed in Jerusalem that Israel acted correctly in the negotiations and that it was Egypt that violated the rules of the game of political contacts, the fact that President Carter, in his talks with As-Sadat, adopted a position confirming this assumption is viewed with satisfaction.

However, Jerusalem is still waiting for the final stage of the As-Sadat visit to the United States and for the statement that might be issued at the conclusion of an additional meeting.

The possibility that the United States might respond to some of As-Sadat's arms requests has been considered and Israel intends to use all its influence in Congress and among public opinion to campaign against this possibility.

7 Feb HA'AREZ Editorial

TA070834Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 7 Feb 78 p 9 TA

[Editorial: "The United States Will Continue To Mediate"]

[Text] Of all the clauses of the White House statement issued after 2 days of talks between the Egyptian and U.S. presidents, the most important is that which says that "as part of their effort toward insuring the continuation of the peace process the two presidents have agreed that Assistant Secretary of State Atherton will return to the region in the near future in order to continue with the activity that developed out of the intention to complete the declaration of principles. They regard this statement as an important step in the establishment of a framework for a comprehensive peace in the region." The statement did not say that the Egyptian president had undertaken to send his delegation back to the Political Committee; however, neither is this ruled out.

It should be noted that the formula quoted is not included in the joint communique but in the White House statement. As was the case in Washington, it was similarly impossible to conclude Anwar as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem with a joint communique, and so the Israeli prime minister issued a statement "with the agreement of the Egyptian president." It was also inconceivable that Mr Begin and Mr as-Sadat would agree on a joint communique in Ismailia, and so the Egyptian president issued a statement "with the agreement of the Israeli prime minister." As-Sadat came to terms with Carter's statement, but it is clear that he did not do so willingly. He could not oppose the resumption of Mr Atherton's mission and it transpires, therefore, that the American leaders were able to prevent the thin thread, upon which the fate of the peace process depends, from being broken.

As-Sadat certainly hoped for other results from his Camp David meeting. The U.S. president was reluctant to decide "between good and bad," as As-Sadat put it. The United States is still not prepared to act as arbiter in the Israel-Arab conflict but carefully maintains the role of a mediator aimed at enabling it to move the Israeli-Egyptian negotiating wagon whenever it gets stuck. Mr Carter took pains to explain to his guest that the United States regards itself as a "friend of both peoples" and the Egyptian leader, who until a few days ago expected massive pressure from Washington on Jerusalem with informed observers saying that he did not attach much importance to the declaration of principles, found it necessary to agree that in the next stage the U.S. effort would focus on the formulation of such a declaration. The "plate-smashing" operation, manifested in the cessation of the Political Committee deliberations, did not pay off for As-Sadat.

At the same time, it should be clear to us that the Palestinian issue will be the central issue in Mr Atherton's and Mr Vance's shuttle campaign. The reentry of the leaders of the State Department into the arena means that the prestige of the United States both inside and outside the Middle East will be enhanced or decline in accordance with the success or failure in navigating the peace efforts. Thus we have to be prepared for increased efforts of U.S. persuasion directed at both sides. And even though recently these efforts have been directed mainly at Egypt, we should not be surprised if they are directed at us next time around. The Egyptian position did not receive U.S. endorsement. However, this does not mean that Washington has endorsed the Israeli position.

WEIZMAN COMMENTS ON SHILO SETTLERS, OTHER TOPICS

TA061839Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Feb 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Several days ago IDF forces removed a group of settlers from the Shilo nucleus. The group settled outside the boundaries of the archeological digs. Here are details from a talk by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman with a group of Knesset members today. Zevi Lidar:

[Lidar] The defense minister was very aggressive in his words on the issue of the settlement in Shilo. It appears that the settlers' timing of their move to the place surprised the cabinet and, as 'Ezer Weizman put it, they broke an agreement. It appears that permission had indeed been given them, but only in the context of the archeological digs planned for the place, and they were informed that they would be permitted to enter Shilo only when the digs began. Therefore, the cabinet was surprised by what they did. When it emerged that the settlers had also broken out of the boundaries of the digs and settled outside them, IDF forces were used to remove them.

Several of the Knesset members who took part in the discussion--and first and foremost members of the opposition, such as Yizhaq Navon, Hayyim Bar-Lev and Yossi Sarid--vigorously attacked the cabinet for its position on the issue of the settlement in Shilo. The criticism was also joined by MK Josef Tamir of the Likud faction, who said that the settlers' actions in Shilo and their statement were an imposition of policy, which no cabinet could make.

On Sunday the cabinet is due to discuss, among other things, the Shilo affair, and several of those attending the discussion understood from what was said by the defense minister that, under the present conditions, he sees no justification for settling there and so he will recommend removing the settlement for the moment. As stated, this is only an impression and there is no certainty that 'Ezer Weizman will indeed do this.

Another issue in the discussion was the negotiations with Egypt. The defense minister reported to the members of Knesset details of his talks in Cairo within the framework of the Military Committee. He was careful not to take a position on the chances of the talks and stressed that he was not optimistic, but was also not pessimistic. He expressed the hope that, with President as-Sadat's return from his tour of the United States and Europe, the talks of both the Military Committee and the Political Committee will resume.

Also brought up at the meeting was the affair of last week's publication of the conclusions of the subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee about the development of the aircraft of the 1980's: the Arye plane. 'Ezer Weizman bitterly attacked the publication of the matter, particularly because of the timing, at the height of the contacts with Egypt and on the eve of his trip to the United States. He expressed the fear that the publicity was likely to harm Israel's bargaining power when it submits requests to buy planes from the Americans. How, the defense minister asked, will I be able to ask for planes for our security when here there is boasting about the ability to independently produce sophisticated planes in the 1980's?

IDF DENIES FORCIBLY MOVING SHILO SETTLERS

TA071136Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[Text] (ITIM)--An ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria learned from authoritative military sources yesterday that the IDF did not take any action against the group from the Gush Emunim nucleus at Shilo conducting archeological excavations. At the end of last week, the military governor of Judaea and Samaria signed a permit to allow an archeological camp in Shilo, and the Shilo nucleus members were allocated a certain area for this. However, the nucleus members went beyond the boundaries of the land alloted them by the military authorities and part of the camp was set up on private land. The military authorities in Judaea and Samaria brought the seriousness of this to the attention of the nucleus members. The ITIM correspondent was told that the nucleus members agreed to return to the area initially alloted them.

'EVRON TO SUCCEED DINITZ AS ENVOY TO U.S.

TA051540Y Paris AFP in English 1439 GMT 5 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb 5 (AFP)--Efrayim 'Evron, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, is expected to succeed Israeli Ambassador to Washington Simcha Dinitz when Mr Dinitz's mission ends, probably toward this summer, Israeli political circles said here today. In which case, the circles said, the Foreign Ministry's new director-general would be Yosef Chechanover, at present head of the Israeli purchasing mission in the U.S. Mr Chechanover is a long-time collaborator and friend of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

SHAH, SHAHBANOU RETURN HOME FROM INDIA, PAKISTAN

LD051618Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The shah and the shahbanou ended their state visit to India and returned home today.

On his way back to Teheran the shah held talks with Pakistan's leaders on international and especially regional issues.

NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH KHALATBARI

LD061842Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The Norwegian foreign minister today held talks with Abbas Ali Khalatbari, our country's foreign minister. At the end of the talks between the foreign ministers of the two countries, Mr Khalatbari told correspondents that expansion of economic relations and new ways of cooperation between the two countries were discussed at this meeting.

The foreign minister of Norway declared his country's readiness for cooperation in Iranian oil and gas industries and said: Norway is ready to undertake the transport of Iranian liquified gas to Europe.

The Norwegian foreign minister, who has come to Iran at the invitation of Foreign Minister Khalatbari, today went to Reza Shah, the great mausoleum, and paid a floral tribute.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH ITALY--The agreement for cultural exchange between Iran and Italy was signed at the Foreign Ministry today. According to this agreement, the two countries will have close cooperation on holding film festivals, miniature and archaeological exhibitions, and the exchange of teachers, students and theater groups. [Text] [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Feb 78 LD]

INDIA

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH DPRK SIGNED 3 FEB

BK0315437 Delhi ISI in English 1507 GMT 3 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The governments of India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have agreed to change over from a bilateral balanced trade through a clearing account in rupees to multilateral trade in convertible currency. A new trade agreement incorporating this decision was concluded in New Delhi on 3 February.

The Indian delegation to the talks was led by Mahesh Prasad, joint secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, and the North Korean delegation by (Lu In-kwan) director general in the Ministry of Foreign Trade. This agreement replaces the trade and payments agreement concluded between the two countries on 18 February 1974.

The new arrangement will take effect from 1 March 1978 and as from that date all contracts for trade between the exporters and importers--including state-owned organisations--of India and the foreign trade corporation of the DPRK will be settled in freely convertible currence mutually agreed upon between them in accordance with the foreign exchange laws, rules and regulations of the two countries. It is considered that this changeover will result in a smoother flow of trade both ways.

Under the agreement the contracting parties shall accord each other most favoured nation treatment in all matters relating to trade between the two countries. The agreement also provides for holding of trade fairs and exhibitions in each other's country and exploration of ways and means for the most convenient and economical transportation of commodities between the two countries.

The agreement will be valid for a period of 2 years with provision of automatic extension by 1 year at a time unless either of the contracting parties has given a notice in writing 3 months before the expiration of the said period of its intention to terminate the agreement. There will be mutual consultations with each other as and when necessary for facilitating the implementation of the agreement.

All payments arising from export and imports of India--including state-owned organizations--and the foreign trade corporation of the DPRK before 1 March 1978 will continue to be governed by the trade and payments agreement of 18 February 1974 and settled as early as possible through export of goods and commodities by mutual agreement between the two contracting parties.

India's two-way trade with the DPRK, which was of the order of 33 million rupees prior to the conclusion of the trade and payments agreement in February, 1974, improved to 69 million rupees in 1974, 107 million rupees in 1975, 94 million rupees in 1976 and to 106 million rupees in 1977. During the years 1976 and 1977 the trade turnover represented 31.3 percent and 34 percent respectively of the trade plan provision of those years. Imports into India from the DPRK consist mainly of magnesia clinkers, refractories, sulphur and zinc. India's exports to the DPRK have been mainly of mica, ores, jute manufactures, pig iron and cotton manufactures.

DELHI PAPER COMMENTS ON SATELLITES, NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS

BK0416307 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 30 Jan 78 p 5 BK

[Editorial: "Nuclear Accidents"]

[Text] The crash of the Soviet spy satellite with an atomic power plant in Canada raises certain questions, the most important of which is whether nuclear accidents will destroy mankind even if there is no war.

The superpowers have huge arsenals of nuclear weapons with almost fool-proof arrangements to ensure that no accidents take place. No major accident has yet occurred but the thought that the safety arrangements can fail some time, resulting in a nuclear conflagration, has some relevance. Fortunately, the crash of the Soviet nuclear-powered satellite has done no damage, although the radiation from the debris is said to be "so dangerous" that it might have to be covered with tons of lead shielding before it can be removed. A U.S. official has explained that it is "highly likely" that the entire uranium core will lay intact on the ground because the Russians, like the Americans, have designed the atomic power package to survive reentry. Anyway, maximum care is being taken to insure that there is no radiation effect. It has been disclosed that the source of the radiation is not the 110 pounds of uranium in the power plant, but the radioactive fission products like strontium-90, casium-137 and the plutonium that has been consumed.

A remarkable development is the understanding between the superpowers on an issue where both sides have a vested interest in dangerous new technologies. The White House was prompt in forestalling public alarm over the world's first nuclear accident in space. President Carter's national security assistant, Dr Brzezinski, explained that the risks of nuclear contamination were minimal and that the United States had been in close touch with Moscow for several days. Another instance of superpower understanding is that although the U.S. Government had known in early December that the Soviet satellite was having problems, it did not reveal this information to friendly governments. There has been an elaborate exchange of messages between Moscow and Washington.

Understanding between the superpowers, particularly on the nuclear issue, is undoubtedly a good sign, it helps to avert nuclear accidents and reckless moves. Both countries have been sending satellites with atomic plants into space and the rest of the world is hardly able to keep track of their numerous experiments in space and outer space. The Soviet Union has sent more nuclear satellites into space than the United States. Some of the Soviet satellites now in outer space are expected to stay in orbit for 500 years and decay before coming back to earth. The satellites gather vital information and their scientific value is indisputable. But the experiments which the superpowers make with the help of nuclear power are not always for peaceful purposes. They use satellites to "spy" on each other and the rest of the world. There is no certainty that some satellites are not carrying or will not carry nuclear weapons.

The use of nuclear reactions in satellites and the possession of nuclear weapons by some countries are posing a threat to man's survival. The attitude of the superpowers to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty is least helpful. They are not willing to observe the conditions which they have laid down for other countries. Use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should go on. But big power nuclear hegemony cannot be defended on legitimate grounds. Unless there is an international decision to destroy all nuclear weapons and an international checking system to make sure that no country makes such weapons, effective international understanding on the use of nuclear energy will be difficult.

The nuclear programmes of most countries are kept as a secret. The CIA has revealed that Israel has been producing nuclear weapons since 1974. She obtained a considerable amount of uranium by clandestine means in the 1960's from an atomic power plant in the United States. Taiwan and South Africa have capacity to produce nuclear weapons. More countries must be toying with the idea of making nuclear weapons which seem to have become a status symbol among countries. Some reckless governments can use the weapons. Another possibility is that some nuclear accidents can take place. In both cases what is at stake is mankind's survival.

DESAI: INDIA 'ALWAYS READY' TO HOLD TALKS WITH PRC

BK0708547Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said India is always ready and willing to hold discussions with China for normalizing relations. Mr Morarji Desai was addressing a press conference at Raj Bhavan in Calcutta this morning. He made it clear that India believed in negotiations and not in wars. The prime minister was replying to a correspondent who drew his attention to the statement of the Chinese vice premier, Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, that China wants to improve relations with India.

In reply to a question, Mr Desai said India is always ready for an exchange of views. He said he would be very happy to meet Mr Teng Hsiao-ping or any other Chinese leader. There must be eagerness on their part also, Mr Desai added.

Referring to center-state relations, the prime minister said there is no need for any national debate on this. He said he is prepared to hold discussion with any state on the subject at a personal level.

About the investment climate in the country, Mr Desai said this depends on the people. On demonetization of high denomination currency notes, he said he is quite happy with the results. It will be seen how many crores are in black money.

NEPAL

BISTA DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH PRC, INDIA, JAPAN

OW0703537Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0333 GMT 7 Feb 78 OW

[Text] Katmandu, Feb 7 KYODO--Prime Minister Kirti Nidhi Bista of Nepal said Monday Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping's visit to Nepal has strengthened friendly relations between the two countries. Meeting Japanese newsmen after Teng's departure for Peking following a 3-day visit, Bista said China agreed to expand aid to a Nepalese sugar refinery and paper mill and other economic development plans. China also agreed to send a team to study sites for the projects and increase bilateral trade, he said.

The prime minister said he found Teng an experienced and affable leader who spoke with authority. He said they did not discuss China's "antihegemony" policy. Nepal will oppose hegemony but not advocate "antihegemony," he said.

Bista described relations with India as very favorable. Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai visited Nepal last December and his People's Party government is more positive to Nepal than the previous Indian cabinet, he said. Nepal-Indian negotiations on trade and commercial traffic through each other's territory have made some progress and his country hopes an Indian delegation will come to Nepal shortly to conclude the agreements, he added.

Bista said his country's relations with Japan are very good, with economic relations deepening. Then Foreign Minister Iichiro Hatoyama visited Nepal last July and King Birendra studied in Japan for several months when he was crown prince, he noted.

PAKISTAN

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH PAKISTANI OFFICIALS

BK0614502 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 6 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The Indian external affairs minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who arrived in Islamabad this morning on a 3-day goodwill visit to Pakistan, has had formal talks with the adviser on foreign affairs, Agha Shahi. The talks lasted more than 1 hour. Both leaders were assisted by their aides. The Pakistan side included the foreign secretary, Shah Nawaz, and senior officials of the Foreign Office. The Indian external affairs minister's team included the foreign secretary, Jagat Singh Mehta; the Indian ambassador to Pakistan; and senior officials of the Indian Foreign Office.

Mr Vajpayee told newsmen that they had frank and friendly talks in a cordial atmosphere. He said he is grateful to Agha Shahi for inviting him to visit Pakistan and he was very happy to (?come). The adviser on foreign affairs, Agha Shahi, told newsmen that the talks covered the Kashmir issue, the implementation of the Simla agreement, the Salal Dam and matters of mutual interest. Radio Pakistan's representative understands that the two sides also discussed bilateral relations and the international situation.

Later the Indian external affairs minister called on the chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq. He was accompanied by the Indian foreign secretary and the Indian ambassador to Pakistan. The adviser on coordination, Ghulam Ishaque Khan, and the adviser on foreign affairs, Agha Shahi, were also present. The Indian external affairs minister also called on the president, Fazal Elahi Chaudhry.

Delhi Radio Report

BK0616102 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had prolonged talks with the chief martial law administrator of Pakistan, Gen Ziaul Haq, in Islamabad today. Mr Vajpayee also had a meeting with Agha Shahi, the foreign affairs adviser to General Haq.

The AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent, Manohar Chakru, reports from Islamabad that both sides feel that today's talks have led to better understanding of each other's viewpoints. Both sides are confident that, despite differences, the visit will lead to improved relations.

Mr Vajpayee told newsmen after the talks that they covered the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in the context of the respective positions of the two sides. They also reviewed the implementation of the Simla agreement.

Later, talking to newsmen, Gen Ziaul Haq said the relations between India and Pakistan can certainly improve if intentions are clear and there is sincerity of purpose on both sides. He said he found these qualities in Morarji Desai and Mr Vajpayee. Recalling the Simla agreement, General Zia said that he does not think the Kashmir issue to be insoluble. There has to be a give and take relationship between the two countries on the basis of equality. Gen Ziaul Haq agreed that India has its own position on the geopolitical situation of the area, but he said that India should see Pakistan's interest does not suffer. He said he will welcome an exchange of journalists and newspapermen between the two countries.

Earlier Mr Vajpayee delivered a special message from the prime minister, Morarji Desai, to Gen Ziaul Haq. General Haq said it was an invitation to him to visit India which he has accepted. A date for the visit will be fixed shortly. Mr Vajpayee today called on the Pakistan president, Fazal Elahi Chaudhry.

Banquet Held 6 Feb

BK071009Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 7 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The adviser on foreign affairs, Agha Shahi, has said Pakistan fervently believes that a just solution of the Kashmir problem, which has bedeviled relations between Pakistan and India for far too long, will usher in a new era of fruitful and harmonious relations between them. He was speaking at a banquet which he held in Islamabad last night in honor of the Indian external affairs minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He said this would not only be in accord with the aspirations of the two peoples, but would open the path to wide cooperation in many fields.

He said the Kashmir question figured in the discussions they had in the morning and he was encouraged by Mr Vajpayee's constructive and statesmanlike approach and his assurance that the Indian Government would honor all the provisions of the Simla agreement.

Agha Shahi said that during the discussions on a wide variety of subjects of bilateral and international interest they had a greater comprehension of each other's point of view. These discussions had enabled them to establish a better atmosphere conducive to evolving and nurturing a tension-free relationship based on sovereign equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

Replying to the speech, the Indian external affairs minister said he was truly convinced that neither India nor Pakistan could realize its fully potential for progress unless both countries, with full respect for each other's independence, marched side by side and sought ways and means to forge meaningful and mutually beneficial cooperation as two neighbors. He said the nations of the subcontinent could become an important factor in ushering in a new international economic order if they decide to cooperate with each other on the basis of equality, good will and respect for each other's sovereignty.

HAQ MEETS INDIAN JOURNALISTS, DISCUSSES BILATERAL RELATIONS

BK061651Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator has said that, given sincerity of purpose, every problem, including the Kashmir issue, which has bedeviled relations between Pakistan and India, can be solved. He said this while talking to Indian journalists at an informal meeting this afternoon. The journalists are now in Pakistan in connection with the visit of the Indian external affairs minister.

Some Indian journalists suggested to the chief martial law administrator that as part of the program to normalize relations between the two countries, there should be an exchange of journalists and athletes as well as official delegations between Pakistan and India. In reply, the chief martial law administrator said this could be done if there was sincerity of purpose and the intentions of both sides were honest. If the aim is sincere, joint projects can be started under the program. He said that two chronic problems have bedeviled relations between the two countries, and they are the Kashmir and the general atmosphere of misunderstanding and mistrust on both sides.

He was asked if it was possible to start the exchange program and to resolve the intricate problem of Kashmir afterwards.

The chief martial law administrator said this is a complicated issue and there is need to look into the basic causes for the differences between the two countries. He told the Indian journalists that his discussions with Atal Bihari Vajpayee today were very cordial and useful. He said there was no specific agenda for the talks, since the visit of the Indian external affairs minister was of a goodwill nature.

On the question of trade, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that trade in the past has been largely in favor of India. This imbalance should be rectified, and India should adopt a broadminded attitude in this connection. He stated that trade should be on the basis of equality. On the issue of regional cooperation, the chief martial law administrator said this could not only be bilateral but multilateral, but the existing conditions should be kept in view in any practical consideration of the issue. There is need for a detailed study of any viewspoints or proposals put forward in this connection.

HAQ MEETS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS IN ISLAMABAD 4 FEB

LD050310Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 5 Feb 78 LD

[Text] At the first session of its nature in Islamabad yesterday, important political leaders were briefed at length about Pakistan's relations with foreign countries, especially with its neighbors, and also on the current economic situation in the country.

The two sittings began with the opening remarks by the chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammed Ziaul Haq. About the economic situation it was pointed out that during the past 5 years in spite of tremendous steps taken up in investment expenditure the impact on output had been much disappointing. It was informed that to correct the situation the next 5-year plan would articulate proper income and prices policy, disciplined monetary and fiscal measures and a clearcut concept of priorities. It was explained that the potential of the country's economy was bright and if properly channelized there was not reason why Pakistan could not be on a respectable growth path of about 6 to 7 percent per annum.

The political leaders expressed full awareness of the economic difficulties faced by the country and stressed that the government must devise policy measures to control prices.

The briefing about the country's relations with their neighbouring countries particularly covered relations with India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Turkey, the Arab world and China. The politicians were informed that the Indian foreign minister, Mr Vajpayee, is not coming to Pakistan with any specific proposal and no (?tacit) deal of any kind whatsoever. It was emphasized that Pakistan would certainly raise the issue of Kashmir with Mr Vajpayee in the context of the Simla agreement.

The briefing also covered Pakistan's relations with the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain. It was pointed out that relations with the United States were good and the only issue on which there was friction was the reprocessing plant.

The political leaders agreed that the foreign policy as explained to them was sound and there was no need for any change.

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